

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

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APRIL 8, 2004

"Egyptian Sun" shines on Saturday night



Seniors Himali Weerahandi, Rebecca Tesfai and Sophomore Kateri Chambers bellydanced in the 'Egyptian Sun' performance in Shriver.

DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER

Witnesses: Officer pushed down student

BY ERIC RIDGE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Hopkins Security Department is investigating allegations that a Hopkins Security officer used force to throw an undergraduate to the ground last September.

Officials had no comment about the case because the ongoing investigation involves a personnel matter, according to Investigations Coordinator Steven Ossmus.

But a memorandum filed with the department names Glenn A. Smith as the officer who was involved with the alleged incident. Smith declined to comment for this article, citing the ongoing investigation.

The alleged incident occurred in the early morning hours of Sept. 14, 2003 when junior Marc Leone was walking with a friend, junior Stephen Grambling, on N. Charles Street near the Mattin Center.

Leone and Grambling saw a group

of three Hopkins students arguing with each other and approached the students. Leone soon joined the argument.

Shortly thereafter, Hopkins Security officers responded to the verbal dispute and asked Grambling to calm Leone down. Three of the people then fled the scene, leaving Leone and Grambling with the officers.

Grambling said that as soon as the others left, the Hopkins officers approached his friend.

According to Leone, one of the

officers then "grabbed my arms and put them behind my back. He took my wallet out, took my bag of Rofo food out of my hands and threw my bag on the ground."

Leone said that while he was still restrained, he turned his head to see Grambling, who was behind him.

"All I was doing was making sure that my buddy wasn't leaving, telling him to stay to watch what was going on," Leone said.

The Hopkins Security officer then "put his foot in front of my foot and laid me on the ground. He put his arms on my back and his forearms on my shoulder," he said.

Senior Ryan Hanley was walking on the Beach toward N. Charles Street when he saw the officers approaching Leone. He heard them talking.

"The next thing I knew, the Hop Cop threw him to the ground," he said. "It almost resembled an arrest."

"He probably held him down for one to two minutes," Hanley said.

Then, according to Leone, "another few Hop Cops came up. At that point I was stood up, given back my wallet and I picked up my stuff."

Another witness to the incident, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that when he arrived at the scene, he saw one officer standing over the student with a second officer also standing nearby. He said that he assumed that the student was being arrested by the officers.

But the official incident report filed by Officer Smith, which was obtained by the News-Letter, makes no mention of any physical contact between the student and the officer.

The report states that Mr. Leone was involved in a verbal dispute with subjects he identified as students of the University and that the officers ordered all subjects

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SAC announces annual budget

New caps impact arts groups, sports teams

BY XIAO-BÓ YUAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

In a significant decrease from past years' budgeting, the Student Activities Commission (SAC) released \$415,000 in the 2004 annual budgeting for Student Council (StuCo) and student groups on Monday, April 25.

After experiencing a "Red Zone" financial crisis in 2003 due to heavily depleted mid-year funds, the SAC managed to increase the amount set aside for contingencies this year from the previously allotted \$79,863.74 to \$116,455.66.

The SAC established the allocations after deliberating for approximately 16 hours last week, during which they reviewed each student group's funding requests and approving budgets for next year based on what StuCo Treasurer Ben Wardlow called "a more conservative" funding policy.

As a result, the SAC decreased total funding for Class A student groups — or those groups that survive on annual budgets rather than sporadic requests for money throughout the year — by \$36,591.89 from the amount allocated last year.

According to Wardlow, the groups most affected by the funding cuts were performing arts groups and sports clubs. These losses came about mostly because the SAC implemented a cap on the salaries that such groups can choose to pay outside professionals, such as directors and coaches, effectively limiting the amount of activity the groups could undertake.

"Some groups asked for expensive things and got hurt," Wardlow said, citing coaches' salaries, directors' fees and sports competition expenses as the major examples.

"There was no policy previously on how much money to give to directors and coaches," Wardlow added, "but now, [the salaries] are mostly based on a ranking of how important the people are to the group."

The caps on professional salaries are ranked according to three levels determined by the SAC, with the first

level denoting a hired individual that is "essentially vital" to the functioning of the group.

The highest funded groups were the Barnstormers and the Ice Hockey Club, with operating budgets of \$10,856 and \$12,143, respectively.

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'The Red Zone' days are over

BY BRENDAN SCHREIBER
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Despite slipping into a debilitating budget crisis earlier this year, the Student Activities Commission (SAC) pulled itself together this weekend to distribute annual budget allocations for Class A student groups in the upcoming academic year.

The SAC delegated \$180,544.34 to the 66 Class A groups, entering the 2004-05 year with approximately \$50,000

more than it had at this point last year. Although more than 10 groups did not file a budget, Student Council (StuCo) Treasurer and SAC Executive Board

Chair Ben Wardlow said that the remaining contingency of \$116,455.66 was sufficient to cover their estimated budgets and funding for Class B groups, which do not receive annual budgets but request funding throughout the year as needed.

Since coming out of an unprecedented "Red Zone" budget crisis in October, which found the SAC below 10 percent of its initial budget,

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News Analysis

Security concern closes N. Charles



DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER

Police swarmed to Charles Village after a mysterious box was discovered on the corner of Charles and 32nd.

BY FRANCESCA HANSEN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

A small metal box left on the corner of 32nd Street turned into a bomb threat that closed down both lanes of N. Charles Street and detoured students for approximately 30 minutes Wednesday.

An anonymous phone call reported concern over the six-inch metallic box with wires sticking out of it, on the street corner. Officers stationed on the corners of 31st and Charles and 33rd and Charles stopped all traffic at approximately 7:35 p.m. Buses were held up and cars backed up as those in the area waited for clearance from the bomb unit.

Once on the scene, the unit cleared the box as a non-explosive, and as Baltimore Northern District Police officer C. K. McGann described the item, "It was most likely an old elec-

trical box." However, he specified that the scare was likely not intended as a hoax by the caller. "They were just trying to do the right thing," McGann said.

Although, as officer McGann specified, every threat reported

draws officers trained in explosive devices. "The Bomb Squad sends out officers trained for that type of device, or at least officers assigned to that type of unit," McGann said, continuing that threats of this type are rare. "It's not a common thing."

Report criticizes JHU

BY JESSICA VALDEZ
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Wage increases for hospital service workers at Johns Hopkins could help bring Baltimore out of economic "stagnation," according to a controversial study released by a local health care union.

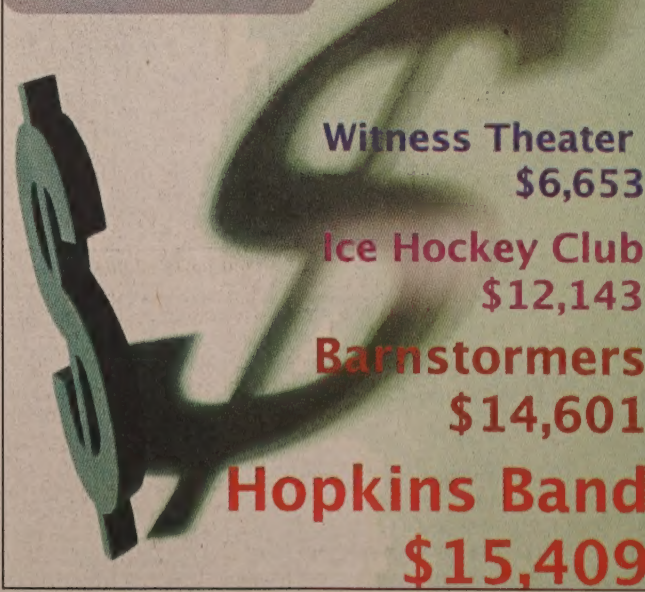
"Consumption depends on people's incomes; raise income and consumption goes up," said Mike

Kapsa, assistant director of the project. "This has a multiplier effect throughout the economy."

In the study "Putting Baltimore's People First," Service Employees International Union District 1199E-DC argues that increasing service worker compensation to a "self sufficient wage" — calculated at \$17.41 per hour for a family of three — would raise

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Top SAC Budget Allocations 2004-2005



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JAYS TOP UNC, 10-9

With 56 seconds left in the game, junior attackman Peter Le Sueur scored the game-winning goal against UNC. Talk about a nail-biter. Page A12

CALLING ALL ENTREPRENEURS

The Business Plan competition ended last Friday, with students competing to win five G's. See which company came out with the best concept. Page B1

GET YOUR LAUGH-ON

Need some good laughs? Stop playing pranks on your roommate and check out Baltimore's Comedy Connection, which features big acts like Chris Rock. Page B5

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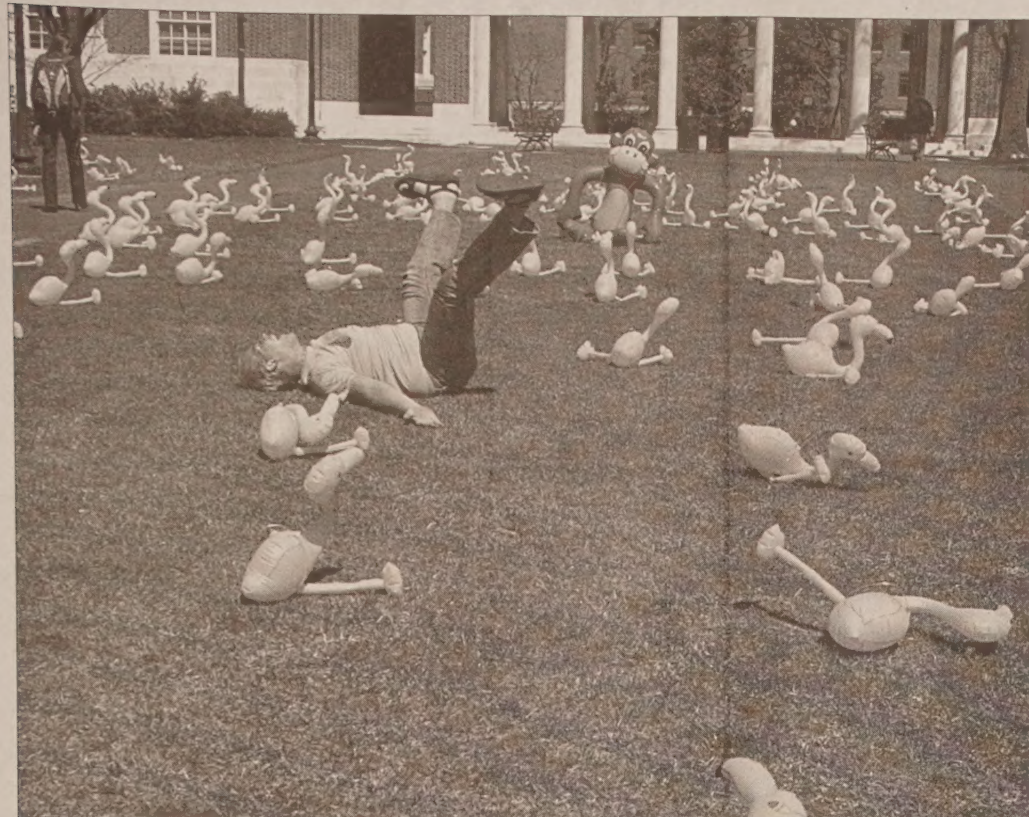
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NEWS

Flamingos bring 'whimsy' to upper quad



Freshman Whimsy Progress Administration member Dave Heldune basks on the flamingo covered upper quad.

BY LEAH BOURNE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Anyone heading to class or wandering around campus Tuesday may have noticed something a little out of the ordinary on the Upper Quad — more than 100 pink blow-up flamingos surrounding a large blow-up monkey on the lawn.

In the most public event of The Whimsy Progress Administration (WPA), the newly formed group brought the plastic animals to bring up the whimsy average on campus Tuesday.

The WPA's sole purpose as a club is to bring a bit of whimsy, ridiculousness and energy to Hopkins. Hopkins, a campus with a student body that is "traditionally over-worked and apathetic," according to the group, and needs a little joy once in a while.

The flamingo event is part of what the WPA's group member sopho-

more Asheesh Laroia called Whimsy Awareness Week.

"This week is meant to raise awareness for our group and provide a vector for the infection of whimsy," he said.

Chris Chan, a sophomore, and a member of the group said, "I got the idea for the flamingos one night when I was lying in bed. I thought, wouldn't it be great to have the Upper Quad covered in plastic flamingos."

Projects of this sort aren't unusual for the newly formed whimsy group. On Valentine's Day, the group strategically placed balloons in various classrooms and tied the balloons with berries that the group picked from the quad to signify mistletoe.

On Monday, group members staged a scene from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* by walking around campus in hooded sweatshirts in order to look like monks, chanting say-

ings in Latin and slapping their heads with textbooks.

The group assembled together at 5:30 in the morning on Tuesday and began to set up the flamingos, which they bought on an Internet plastic wholesaler using the personal funds of group members.

The group has yet to receive SAC funding, although they received permission to use the Upper Quad from the Office of Student Involvement.

It took about two-and-a-half hours to blow up the flamingos and set them up on the lawn of the quad.

The Whimsy Progress Administration is now an official club with the Office of Student Involvement.

For the most part student reactions were largely confused. Shelly Bhowmik, a freshman, said, "The flamingos are random but cute. Isn't that Whimsy thing, a political thing?"

Maria James, also a freshman,

was equally befuddled. "I am confused. I don't know what they are for. It is strange to see a whole bunch of flamingos with a monkey in the middle in the Upper Quad."

Laroia said that for the most part, people came away from the event with one of two reactions — confusion or amusement. Laroia said, "Students asked, 'What is this? I don't get it.'" Or they thought that we were making fun of the Pro-Life group. That is not our purpose. It is just our luck that they are doing pink as well," he said, referring to one of their banners on the breezeway.

"One professor did come up to me and recognized that the flamingos were odd for odds sake," Laroia said.

Whimsy member and sophomore Tristan Ankersar said he hopes that the event "gains more members for our group. It is whimsical, but it is also meant to be public."

Another member, freshman Dave Heldune says that he hopes that it will "make someone smile, and that will make another person smile, and so on."

Besides for the minor setback of having eight of the flamingos stolen, the event did prove to be a hot topic on campus, and went off relatively as it was intended to, the group reported.

Other events for the week that the WPA has organized include what Laroia calls a "protest against protests where members will carry signs displaying this message. There will also be an air band concert with air guitarists."

Cultural 'Block' Party hits Glass Pav.

BY TERESA MATEJOVSKY
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

It wasn't out on 34th Street and the spring rain was hardly a party, but the Cultural Block Party had enough free food and dancing to attract lunchtime crowds of students Friday afternoon.

"It would have been better outside, but we had a lot of fun," said Valentina Rodriguez, social chair of the Latin dance group OLE, which has performed in the festival both years. Forced into the Glass Pavilion due to inclement weather, the second annual Block Party joined 19 student groups to promote awareness of cultures and cultural groups on campus. Although the event debuted last school year in fall 2002, it was moved to spring semester this year in hopes of coinciding with spring fever and warmer weather. Inclement weather instead forced the event to relocate from its scheduled location on 34th Street between Wolman and McCoy Halls, but students said that they still considered the event a success.

"At first thought, I thought turnout would be bad because of the rain, but our food went so fast," said sophomore Samantha Simpson, who chaired Black History Month for the Black Student Union (BSU). "Everyone was trying everyone else's food and loving it." BSU, which made enough "soulfood" baked macaroni and cheese, cornbread and watermelon for 100 to 150 people, said that their food ran out within an hour.

This year, the Block Party unified

19 SAC cultural groups, each of which paid \$25 towards a Baltimore City food permit but received \$100 to provide free finger food at the event. Coordinator senior Jon Gross secured about \$3,500 University funding support, including \$1000 from the SAC, \$2000 from Homewood Student Affairs and \$100 from both the Office of Student Involvement and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The money subsidized the \$50 city food distribution permits and helped to acquire a professional DJ and to reimburse groups for food.

There was little publicity for the festival, since the outdoor event usually attracts visitors on its own, but Gross, who is the Cultural Liaison for the Student Activities Commission (SAC), said that the 12 - 4 p.m. event was "packed" in the early afternoon and was overall "as good as we could've hoped with the rain pouring outside."

Group members sat at tables around the Glass Pavilion distributing free food that ranged from sushi to tropical fruit, and from falafel to cornbread. Five student groups provided live entertainment, including the Black Student Union Slam, the Chinese Lion Dance Troupe, OLE Dance, the Egyptian Sun Dancers and the Indian dance group JOSH.

Gross said that cultural groups on campus "already have all this stuff — food, dance, etc. They just needed a coordinator to get them together." The event drew over 1,000 students and community members when it debuted in fall 2002.

Crime Report, March 28-April 1

March 28, 2004	10 p.m. - An unknown suspect broke into a victim's vehicle on 2600 Blk. N Charles St. and took property.	3:12 p.m. - An male suspect entered a convenience store on 3600 Blk. Roland Ave. and removed another person's property from the scene. Police have yet to determine the suspect's identity.
March 29, 2004	12:20 p.m. - A police received reports from a person who had seen a suspect putting someone else's property under his shirt at a convenience store on 600 Blk. Berry St.	March 31, 2004
1:30 p.m. - An unknown person broke into an occupied rowhouse on 100 Blk. W 27th St. and stole property.	4 p.m. - Police arrested a suspect for shoplifting merchandise from a store in a shopping center on 1000 Blk. W 41st St.	12:10 a.m. - The owner of a vehicle parked on 4000 Blk. St. Paul St. reported that the car was missing from the driveway.
2 p.m. - A victim of larceny reported to the police that an unknown suspect stole personal items that the victim had left outside on a bicycle on 2900 Blk. Huntingdon Ave.	10 p.m. - The owner of a vehicle reported that he had parked the vehicle on 400 Blk. E 30th St. and had secured the doors but found the automobile stolen when he returned to the spot. Police are still investigating the case.	8 p.m. - Police investigated reports that a suspect had stolen a moped from a private garage on 3500 Blk. Keswick Rd.
	March 30, 2004	3:30 p.m. - The suspect of a residential burglary forced an entrance through the basement window of an occupied building on 3200 Blk. Barclay St. and took unknown property.
	7 a.m. - An unknown suspect broke into a person's parked vehicle on 3200 Blk. Frisby St. and removed property before fleeing from the scene.	April 1, 2004
		7:20 p.m. - Police received reports that a person's Mr. Magnetic signs were stolen off of his vehicle on 3500 Blk. Keswick Rd.

NEWSBRIEFS

Student assaulted with knife on 3100 block of N. Charles

An attempted robbery at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday left a Hopkins junior with a slashed forearm and the assailant with a black eye. Walking southbound on the 3100 block of Charles Street, the student, who wishes to remain anonymous, was approached by an assailant from the bushes outside of the Allston.

"He came out of the bushes asking for my wallet with a knife, and I said no, 'You can't have my wallet,'" he said. According to the Hopkins Security report, the suspect was 5'11" and in his mid-20s and African American. According to the student, the suspect immediately swung at him with the knife.

"I blocked him, and he must've gotten me, but I didn't notice," he said.

While the junior has only suffered a minor scrape, he said that his self-defense left the assailant with a black eye. "I punched him in the face. He backed off stunned, then we both ran in opposite directions," he said.

As of Wednesday, Hopkins Security had not apprehended any suspects, although they initially identified a nearby resident. According to the student, they surrounded the suspect, but he negatively identified him. "They shone the light in his face, and I saw it wasn't him."

Despite the injury, the student said he would continue walking alone at

night. "I knew it was Baltimore. I'm not going to do anything differently," he said.

"I could've run away initially but I'm happy. I still have my wallet and he's got a black eye," he said.

—By Francesca Hansen

Group assaults Towson, JHU students

Two college students from Johns Hopkins and Towson University were assaulted by unidentified assailants in the early morning on Friday, April 2. After returning from Hammerjacks, the two victims were verbally and physically assaulted by an unidentified group of males.

No serious injury occurred, and both victims refused hospitalization. Hopkins Emergency Response Unit (HERU) responded to the incident, along with Hopkins

Security. The two victims, along with a group of friends, were returning from Hammerjacks' club night. After exiting the shuttle bus from the club in front of the library, they were met by a group of about eight to nine males.

A verbal argument ensued, and the two victims were each struck on the left jaw.

The Towson student received a small laceration, while the Hopkins student was inflicted with a swollen left jaw and a scratch. It is not clear yet whether this incident was fraternity related. The security report was referred to Ira Young, the Greek Coordinator for Hopkins.

He said, "We're looking into it to see if it was fraternity related. If it is fraternity-related, there will be an investigation." The Hopkins Security report also mentioned that all of the students involved in the incident had been drinking.

—By Suzanne Nizza

ERRATA

In the April 1 issue of the *News-Letter*, in the article "Robertson analyzes Foreign Policy," the Muslim Students Association was incorrectly cited as handing out articles defending Robertson's previous statements. The pamphlets handed out, according to Muslim Students Association president Andleeb Khan, were intended to criticize the MSE Symposium's use of Robertson's quotes as publicity.

The *News-Letter* sincerely regrets this error.

JHU 2004

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JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Hopkins resists low wage criticisms

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ers and spur city economic growth and development. The study devotes an entire chapter to Hopkins, which, according to the study, pays service workers on average only \$10 per hour before taxes.

But Hopkins representatives, calling the study a piece of pro-union propaganda, contend that such a substantial wage increase could cut the workforce and eliminate some unskilled laborers.

"The union only wants us to see one side," said Howard Baetjer, Jr., a lecturer in the economics department at Towson University.

"Higher wages for some would mean fewer jobs for others. It benefits some at the expense of others," he said.

To fund such substantial wage increases, Hopkins and its peer institutions would have to cut unskilled labor, which would put many Baltimore city workers out of a job, said Baetjer, who was hired by Hopkins to look into the study's claims.

"So what these forced higher wages do is give the employers the incentive to hire the more capable workers and cut off the lower rungs of the employment ladder for those trying to get into employment," he said.

But this argument isn't bolstered by the hospital's low wages, said Kapsa.

"We think that the level of wages now are so low," he said, "that in fact it would be the opposite effect."

Hopkins, as an employer of 35

percent of the city's hospital service workforce, is key to the study since it is often the wage setter for Baltimore hospitals.

"A lot of other hospitals wait on the sidelines to see what Hopkins does," Kapsa said.

Compared to other health institutions throughout the state, Johns Hopkins Hospital ranks among the third lowest for compensation of service and maintenance employees, according to the study.

"That's demonstrably untrue," said Gary Stephenson, spokesperson of Hopkins Hospital. "We're the third highest paying hospital in the state."

Still, many Hopkins employees qualify for public assistance, according to the study, which it also called a "hidden government subsidy."

As a nonprofit institution, Hopkins qualifies for tax exemption and currently owns \$505 million worth of tax-exempt property, while the city is facing a dwindling tax base, according to the study.

"Were these properties subject to taxation, Hopkins would have to pay \$12 million a year in property taxes to the City," said the study.

But as a nonprofit, Hopkins would have to take away funding from other departments in order to support a hike in salaries.

"Hopkins has an obligation to its patients, to its donors, to the people it serves to do a good job," said Baetjer. "Hopkins isn't supposed to be an employment agency. It's a hospital."

Task force leader discusses gay rights

BY ALLAN SOTO
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

On Wednesday evening the Johns Hopkins University's Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (DSAGA) hosted guest speaker Matt Foreman as part of the 12th annual Awareness Days celebration. Awareness Days is the largest symposium of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) issues in the Baltimore-Washington area. The theme of this year's symposium is Awareness Days 2004: People Politics. The focus of People Politics is a reflection on the changing face of queer politics.

"We want to reach members of the community that are not already familiar with DSAGA," said sophomore Michael Mueller, director of operations for DSAGA. "We want to give them not an agenda, but a familiarity with the issues our community faces."

Foreman is the Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). The NGLTF, in its 30th year, is the oldest active gay rights advocacy organization. The NGLTF considers itself "the progressive voice of the (gay rights) movement." More information on the task force can be found on their Web site, <http://www.ngltf.org>.

He began the night by discussing the major breakthroughs that have occurred in the gay community over the last year. He brought attention to the Lawrence vs. Texas decision, as well as the recent Goodridge decisions in Massachusetts that will allow for same-sex marriages beginning May 17th this year.

With gay marriage having taken over the face of the movement and being a major topic of focus in the upcoming political elections Fore-



NATHAN BATES/NEWS-LETTER
Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Matt Foreman discussed gay marriage.

man made it a prominent part of his discussion. Foreman discussed the fact that as soon as the Goodridge decision was handed down, all the major right-wing organizations got together to organize around opposing same-sex marriage. According to him this creates an uphill battle the LGBT community must face, being both out-numbered and out-financed by opposition groups.

Foreman feels one of the LGBT community's biggest allies is the media. He pointed out the San Francisco same-sex marriage media coverage, particularly the news programs which showed "all the normal people" standing out in the rain waiting to get married and coming out happy.

"It should show activists the power of love," said Foreman. "It brings more promise to our community than there has been in a long time."

Taking particular offense to President Bush's pursuance of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages, Foreman referred to Bush as a "menace to America for gay

people." Foreman said a Bush victory in the upcoming elections could pin the gay movement.

With the elections coming up and the movements' pursuit for the allowance of same-sex marriages in full throttle Foreman said, "It's moments like this where you take a giant step forward or you get crushed. And I don't think we're going to get crushed."

During a round table discussion towards the end of the event an audience member asked Foreman to comment on the false belief of conservative and opposition groups that the LGBT community has a vehemently promiscuous nature that manifests itself in all their activities. Foreman responded by commenting, "The gay community has embraced the most conservative institution [marriage], but they still hate us."

To combat all his opposition and the false beliefs people have about the LGBT community, Foreman likes to resort to door-to-door advocating. He believes it is the most effective way to reach people and the cheapest if you have the resources for it. Foreman has seen many advancements

made in the past using this method.

Despite all the advancements, Foreman touched on some of the hurdles the gay movement has encountered over the past year. He said that 36 states still allow employers to dismiss employees simply based on their sexual preference. He spoke of the 43 percent increase in hate crimes in New York City since Lawrence vs. Texas was handed down, the largest jump ever in a six-month period for the city.

Before having to depart to catch his train back to New York, Foreman concluded the night by discussing the recent infusion of society with the gay movement. In particular he referred to shows such as *Will and Grace*, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, and *The L-Word*. He believes such shows stereotype the gay community as their own culture rather than simply the normal people they are.

"People believe we are all single, rich white males...and are all good at interior decorating," said Foreman. "We need a more realistic portrayal of our lives."

SAC releases 2004-05 budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

The JHU Band, which topped the list of highly-funded groups last year with a budget of nearly \$14,000, received only 42 percent of requested funds this year.

"We didn't pick any single group to cut back on," Wardlow said. "It all depended on what parts of the group's budget was not capped or explained properly."

Out of the 66 SAC student groups, six groups received less than 50 percent of their requested funds, a decrease from the seven groups out of 64 that received less than half of requested funding last year.

Fourteen groups received 90 percent of requested funds last year, down from the 26 groups that did so last year, and 14 groups failed to receive any annual allotment because they submitted incomplete or late applications.

Eight out of the 14 groups without annual budgets were performing arts or sports groups.

However, SAC Political Action Liaison and StuCo Treasurer-elect Grace Gallick reassured students that the higher amount set aside for contingencies would provide back-up for those that need to request funds throughout the next year.

"Most groups came away content with their budgets because there's the opportunity to come back for more funding," Gallick said.

"There's also an increasing level of student activity on campus," Gallick added, "and we need to fund all groups."

Gallick also suggested that many groups did not receive the funding they desired because they applied for extraneous expenses that do not necessarily impact their activity on campus.

Although the SAC wants to ensure that student groups function well, Gallick commented, there was "a certain level of disagreement about what 'functioning' means" between the SAC and student groups.

Some of the student groups present at the General Assembly (GA) expressed confusion about why their applications for funds had been rejected or severely lessened.

A member of the Caribbean Cultural Society, who wished to remain anonymous, stated that she had "no idea" why the group did not get the requested amount of funds, although she doubts that the decreased budget will have a detrimental effect on the group's activities.

Junior Alex Kram, a member of the Olympic Tae Kwon Do team, cited problems in the internal structure of the sports club as the primary reason the group did not receive an annual budget this year.

"This was our first year with Class A status," Kram explained, "so we had personal issues with officers, got disorganized and had people who

didn't understand the budget process."

Kram estimated that the team had requested anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 of funding for next year, more than half of which would have gone towards paying the two Tae Kwon Do coaches the team employs each year for approximately \$3,000 each.

Although internal problems played a role, Kram also expressed uncertainty about the clarity of the information released by the SAC.

"I'm not sure if the SAC information was passed on correctly, either by them or by our own members," Kram said.

While some groups may be unsatisfied with the decreases in their budgets, Gallick suggested that "to say

they were negatively affected is an over-simplification," as lessened funding for some groups did not necessarily mean a harmful impact on their activities, while other groups who obtained the funds they requested could still possibly suffer.

All students present at the GA voted on the annual budgets during the meeting, with an overwhelming majority approving the budgets.

Wardlow also solicited nominations for the eight SAC liaison positions, which were in the areas of culture, religion, political action, publications, sports, special interests, recreation and hobbies, and performing arts.

The SAC will hold elections to determine next year's liaisons at its last GA on April 19.

100k for Class B groups

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

The SAC had revised funding policy "to be more fiscally conservative," introducing caps on coach salaries, food and transportation costs.

"We really just stuck to the policy," Wardlow said. "Next year's budget is golden; I'm almost jealous of next year's treasurer. You shouldn't hear anything about a Red Zone next school year."

Mobilized by the October Red Zone to address the funding issue and under attack by some student groups for careless budgeting, SAC board members were determined to leave next year's SAC with enough money to avoid the financial crisis that left this year's groups grappling over limited funds.

The October Red Zone had been the product of a particularly tightly-funded SAC. Despite an unchanged initial budget for student programming in the beginning of the fiscal 2003-04 year, the SAC had to extend funds to at least 10 more student groups which had joined their ranks. Annual allocations last year distributed \$210,136.26 to Class A student groups, leaving a contingency of only \$79,863.74 to disperse between Class B groups.

The SAC board had determined already last week to aim to leave a minimum \$100,000 contingency for next year. Wardlow said that this was not a policy change, but rather an ideal situation that the group only hope for. The \$116,455.66 contingency that remains after this weekend's Class A allocations will be available to Class B groups, and also to Class A groups who require additional funding during the year.

"Last year SAC policy was open to speculation and that allowed for some groups to be funded for certain things that shouldn't be funded or are not within the scope of SAC funding guidelines," Wardlow said. "It's customary for groups to push the limits of SAC funding, but some groups got more than should be given out in annual budgeting."

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NEWS

U.S. News lowers Hopkins med rank

BY SHRUTI MATHUR

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

After holding the number two spot for 13 years, the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine has slipped to third place in the *U.S. News and World Report's* rankings of the nation's best medical schools for 2005.

According to the magazine, which was released this week, medical school rankings are based on a combination of two reputational surveys, one from deans and senior faculty peers and another from directors of intern-residency programs, as well as objective data, including such criteria as research awarded to the medical school and all its affiliated hospitals, student selectivity and faculty resources.

Hopkins lost number two status to Washington University in St. Louis, the Midwestern school that it shared the rating with last year. Both research universities suffered minute losses in composite scores, Washington University dropping from 97 to 96 and Hopkins dropping from 97 to 95. Harvard University, which remained at number one, kept a score of 100.

While Hopkins equaled Harvard in assessment scores, with a 4.8 out of 5 ranking from peers and a 4.7 ranking from residency directors, Washington University held its own with top rankings in the categories of student selectivity, average MCAT and GPA scores and student to faculty ratio.

Hopkins, however, did continue to rank within the top 10 in six out of eight specialized areas of medicine detailed by the magazine, including number one standings in the fields of Geriatrics, Internal Medicine and Drug/Alcohol Abuse and number two standings in the fields of AIDS and Pediatrics.

"We are among the most desirable medical schools in the country, the *crème de la crème*," said Johns Hopkins School of Medicine spokesperson Gary Stephenson. "I don't think it is so much that we have fallen, but that Washington has risen, and that just goes to show that the bar keeps rising, and that's a good thing, because there is always room for im-

provement. Anyone from the top 10 should be proud, and we are happy for Washington University."

Rounding out the magazine's top 10 research intensive medical schools were Duke University and University of Pennsylvania, tied at 4th place; University of California-San Francisco, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Stanford University, tied at eighth; and University of Washington and Yale University tied at 10th place.

"We do not consider this a horse race," said Richard Folkers, director of media relations at *U.S. News*. "We are known to make methodical surveys, and these ratings are solely for the benefit of students contemplating where to go to school."

Folkers pointed out the minute difference between the rankings of the top ten schools, advising students not to fixate on the numbers but to read across the line and look for the school that best fits their individual needs. "We are the first to say that our rankings are only a tool in the decision making process, and in the real world, I don't think that students take them so much into consideration as the rest of us do."

Despite the release of the new rankings, pre-med junior Amar Purewal said that he does not give much credibility to the statistics. "I don't put much faith in those rankings, and the only people it probably really matters to are the school's publicists and the parents of the kids attending," he said.

"I think judging a school based solely on its ranking is somewhat arbitrary, since there are a lot of intangible things that make Hopkins a great institution," said third year Hopkins medical student Amit Malhotra.

"I applied to a lot of schools, and the rankings were more a guide to get started. Then it was just about asking around and seeing from your professors and mentors what schools are worth visiting, and then once you visit, that's the only real way to get an idea whether that school is a match for you."

Savage headlines Awareness Days week

BY JULIANNA FINELLI
AND JESS BEATON

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

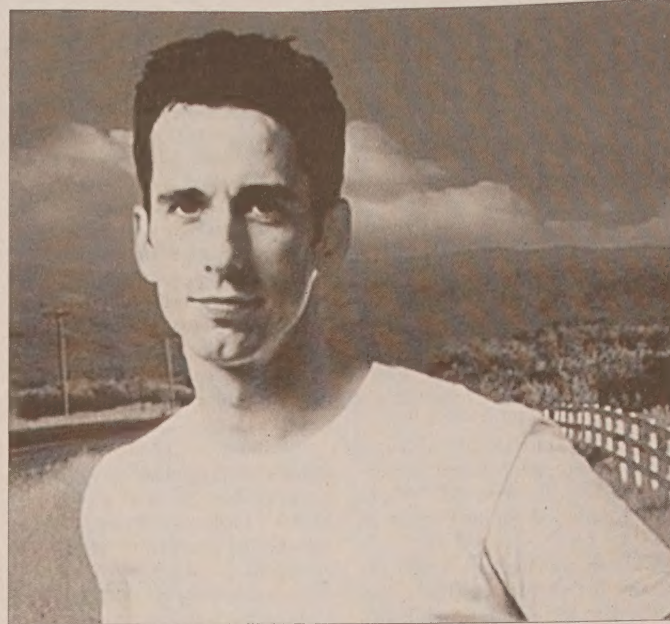
Syndicated sex columnist Dan Savage spoke to a mixed crowd of undergraduates, graduate students and community members last Thursday night, as the Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (DSAGA) kicked off its 12th annual Awareness Days Program.

Savage, who writes the nationally syndicated sex column "Savage Love," began by ditching the speech he had prepared and instead beginning a discussion on gay marriage, an institution he feels has gone through dynamic changes that reflect society's modified definition of marriage.

Marriage today is what two people make it — they can decide whether or not to live together, have kids or share finances and whether to marry for two days or a lifetime. Because people are deciding for themselves what marriage is, the door has been opened for two people of the same sex to be married, said Savage.

He touched on the fact that gay people will continue having children whether or not they are legally married and that recognizing these marriages could only serve to benefit those children who already exist.

Savage called civil unions, "marriage-lite," and expressed the con-



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Columnist Savage spoke as the first event of DSAGA's Awareness week.

cern that making such unions so widely available would actually undermine the institution of marriage.

"It's junior varsity marriage," said Savage, and a poor substitute for the real thing.

Savage recounted his experiences in Seattle while attempting to get a marriage license for he and his boy-

friend — they were immediately rejected. He then returned to the clerk's office with his lesbian friend.

"[I said,] 'I'm gay, she's a lesbian, we're never going to live together, not going to have children, never going to see each other naked and only kind of like each other. Can we get a license?'"

They were handed a license that day.

Savage said he and his friend plan to hold a ceremony to demonstrate how absurd they find this process.

Savage then opened the floor to audience members, who asked questions ranging from AIDS and genetics to reality television and abstinence education.

Savage said AIDS and HIV education needs to undergo revision. The message to gay men in the '80s — that anything goes as long as you use a condom — is no longer adequate. There is a limit to how many people you should be sleeping with, no matter how safe a person is, increasing the number of partners increases the risk, said Savage.

"Straight people need more [sex] than they can get," he said. "Gay people need less [sex] than they can get — there's a balance."

When asked his opinion on religion, Savage said he had a low opinion of organized religion and an even lower one of disorganized religion.

"We should be able to not like other people's religions or beliefs," he said. "Religious wars are fights between people to see who has the better imaginary friend."

Savage spoke out against abstinence education, which he feels that although it might cause kids to have fewer partners, it does not mean there are lower rates of STDs. He also fielded a question about reality television's portrayal of gay characters. He commented that it seems that all openly gay couples break up, and gay characters, like Will from *Will and Grace*, are unrealistic.

However, he also pointed out that the need to censure gay television characters is no longer necessary. Before, when there were only a few representations of homosexuality on television, it was important to make them realistic. Now, however, with the rise of gay characters and relevant story lines, there is less need to be so concerned.

Savage spoke candidly about his son, whom he and his boyfriend adopted. "My son is a staunch opponent of gay marriage," he said. "Two men just can't marry each other, just like to him a girl can't be a firefighter." Savage said that every child of same-sex couples is a wanted child — the couple either had to adopt or ask someone to lend a uterus. "You don't get drunk and adopt," he said.

Security investigating allegations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

to leave the area of the Mattin Center.

Also at the scene was Officer Gregory Fonseca, who was listed as a witness on the Security report. Fonseca also declined to comment for this article.

Leone suffered only minor scrapes in the alleged incident.

He said that the incident near the Mattin Center was not the first time that he had dealt with the same officer during a span of just a few hours.

At 11:35 p.m. on September 13, about four hours before the Mattin Center incident, Hopkins Officers were called to a loud party at 310 East University Parkway.

"The same Hopkins Security officer was at my house about an hour

earlier with a noise complaint. They told us to clear out our house. I said something to him, and he yelled at me, and I walked away," Leone said.

"There was a noise complaint from our neighbors; they were clearing out the house. He was doing what I interpreted as invading our house," Leone said.

Just hours later, Leone and Grambling saw the officer again, and at that time Leone said he was taken to the ground by the officer. Leone said that he did not report the Mattin Center incident to anyone at Hopkins.

"After that, I didn't say anything about it to the school," he said. "I didn't want to do anything about it. It was a little scary getting thrown by the cop," he said.

Leone said that a month or two later he got a call from a Hopkins investigator, and then he was subsequently interviewed about the incident. He has not heard anything about the investigation since then.

Leone said that he has not yet ruled out the prospect of filing a lawsuit as a result of the alleged incident.

"I did think about it, and I still am thinking about it," Leone said.

Officers who were interviewed for this report said that if any officer felt that he was in danger of being attacked, he might try to subdue the student. But none of the eyewitness accounts provide any information that Leone was physically aggressive.

"He did not lunge at him," Hanley said.

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS AT THE VILLA SPELMAN, FLORENCE, ITALY

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Applications are invited from graduate student who want to participate in the Program in Social Theory and Historical Inquiry at the Charles S. Singleton Center for Italian Studies at the Villa Spelman, Florence, in the fall 2004 semester.

Many graduate students have benefited from this special opportunity to work with colleagues in other fields, and to present their work for criticism.

This year, Donald Carter of the Department of Anthropology will convene the seminar, *Diaspora Theory*. Students enrolled in doctoral programs from all departments in the humanities and the social sciences are welcome to apply. Participants will arrive in Florence in September and are expected to remain until the end of December. Several students will receive a Villa Spelman fellowship and travel allowance, but tuition is not covered by Villa Spelman. Students who do not qualify for a Villa Spelman/Singleton fellowship may still attend if their projects are approved and their home departments provide fellowship and travel support.

Eligible students should apply to Mary McDonough in the Villa Spelman Office, 407 Gilman Hall, by **Friday, April 16**. A one-page statement from the student describing the subject of his or her research should be provided. A brief letter of recommendation from the student's advisor should also be included. The final piece of the application is a letter from the chair of the student's department, stating that the student has the permission of the chair to attend the seminar. Successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible.

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NEWS

AROUND THE WORLD

Rice set to testify at Sept. 11 hearings

BY NANCY BENAC
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) - Focus on the facts. Avoid arrogance. Give no ground but still show compassion. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice faces a balancing act as she prepares to testify in public Thursday before the commission investigating the Sept. 11 terror attacks. She needs to defend the Bush administration's efforts to combat terrorism without seeming to be defensive.

And she will need to make sure that the cool, polished manner that is usually her strength does not come across to the American people as cold.

Rice, 49, is well-rehearsed for this forum. She answered the commission's questions in private for more than four hours two months ago with what both Democrats and Republicans said was candor and cooperation. More recently, she has firmly defended the administration's response to the attacks in other public forums.

This time, though, the stakes are higher, in part because the White House fought so hard to keep her from testifying before the commission in public - and under oath - before it finally relented.

In addition, the commission now has heard an earful from Richard Clarke, the former White House counterterrorism chief who accused Bush and his national security team of doing too little to thwart al-Qaida before the attacks and of being fixated on Iraq after the attacks.

Rice will be speaking to the nation and the world as well as to the commissioners. Seated right behind her in the hearing room will be family members of those who died in the attacks. Those family members, who embraced Clarke after his testimony, have their own long list of questions they think she should answer.

Rice, a former Stanford University provost, is "very good at making her point; she's very good at arguments," said Wayne Fields, an expert on political rhetoric at Washington University in St. Louis. "She's also very tough, and sometimes that toughness becomes the persona through which everything else is seen. She needs to relax that. This is about national anguish more than it is about any administration."

At the same time, though, it is important to the White House for Rice to offer reassurance that the administration has done its utmost in the fight against terrorism. President Bush has pinned his re-election strategy on his resolute response to terrorism, and his poll numbers in that regard have been slipping.

"He just cannot afford to take any more hits on national security," said

Democratic strategist Paul Begala. Bush expressed his confidence in his national security adviser on Monday, telling reporters, "She'll be great. She's a very smart, capable person who knows exactly what took place, and will lay out the facts ... I'm looking forward to people hearing her."

Begala said that because of her loyalty to Bush, Rice has a penchant "sometimes to go beyond the facts in her zeal to make the president look good."

"There's a huge difference when you put one hand on the Bible and the other hand in the air," he said. "She has to stick straight to the facts because she's so gifted and bright that no one is going to cut her any slack if she gets the facts wrong."

There are a number of points on which Rice and others on the Bush national security team have seemed to contradict one another, and Rice herself at times has seemed to offer conflicting accounts.

She's already modified one statement, backpedaling in her private appearance before the commission from her May 2002 statement that no one could have predicted that a hijacked airplane could be used as a missile. It was later revealed that officials had considered the possibility several times.

Thomas Kean, the Republican chairman of the commission, has said that the panel wants to use Rice's appearance to look at "what substantive differences there are, perhaps, in testimony between Dr. Rice and any other witnesses." The commission was insistent that her testimony be under oath, thus under threat of perjury.

For all the drama attached to securing Rice's testimony, Jamie Gorelick, a Democratic commissioner who served in the Clinton administration, said no one should expect "a blockbuster Perry Mason type of hearing. We don't want it to be a circus."

National Security Council spokesman Sean McCormack said Rice has been reviewing materials related to the Sept. 11 attacks to prepare for her testimony but he was not aware of any debate-style practices. "She's well aware of the kinds of questions that are out there right now," he said. "She'll be prepared to answer them."

In addition to getting the details right, Rice has to be careful not to forget the big picture, says Michael O'Hanlon, a national security analyst at the Brookings Institution.

"She needs to throw away the briefing book, go have a glass of wine with an old friend who's smart about this sort of thing and just step back from it and think about the broad story," he said. "In broad terms, they're better off acknowledging they should have done more, but saying that there wasn't that huge of a difference between what they did and what Clinton did."



MURAD SEZER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
During a violent gun battle with Iraqi insurgents, U.S. Marines with the 2nd Battalion attacked neighborhoods in the outskirts of Fallujah.

Marines killed in fierce battles in Iraq

BY HAMZA HENDAW
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAJAF, Iraq — Iraqi insurgents and rebellious Shiites mounted a string of attacks across the south and fought pitched battles against Marines in the turbulent city of Fallujah on Tuesday. Up to a dozen Marines, two more coalition soldiers and at least 66 Iraqis were reported killed.

Reports from the city of Ramadi, near Fallujah, said dozens of Iraqis attacked a Marine position near the governor's palace, a senior defense official said from Washington. "A significant number" of Marines were killed, and initial reports indicate it may be up to a dozen, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

U.S. authorities also launched a crackdown on radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr al-Sadr and his militia after a series of weekend uprisings in Baghdad and cities and towns to the south that took a heavy toll in both American and Iraqi lives. The fighting marks the first major outbreak of violence between the U.S.-led occupation force and the Shiites since Baghdad fell a year ago.

Two more coalition soldiers - an American in Baghdad and a Ukrainian in Kut - were killed in fighting. The deaths brought the three-day total to up to about 30 Americans and 136 Iraqis killed in the worst fighting since the war that toppled Saddam Hussein.

In the Ramadi fighting, heavy casualties were inflicted on the insurgents as well, officials said. It was not immediately known who the attackers were, nor whether the attack was related to fighting under way in nearby Fallujah.

On the Fallujah front, Marines drove into the center of the Sunni city in heavy fighting before pulling back before nightfall. The assault had been promised after the brutal killings and mutilations of four American civilians there last week. Hospital officials said eight Iraqis died Tuesday and 20 were wounded, including women and children.

U.S. warplanes firing rockets destroyed four houses in Fallujah after nightfall Tuesday, witnesses said. A doctor said 26 Iraqis, including women and children, were killed and 30 wounded in the strike. The deaths brought the number of Iraqis killed in Fallujah on Tuesday to 34, including eight who died in street battles earlier in the day.

The dusty, Euphrates River city 35 miles west of Baghdad is a stronghold of the anti-U.S. insurgency that sprang up shortly after Saddam's oust a year ago.

With fighting intensifying ahead of the June 30 handover of power to an Iraqi government, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld said American commanders in Iraq would get additional troops if needed. None has asked so far, he said.

State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli said al-Sadr and his followers were not representative of a religious cause but of "political gangsterism."

The 30-year-old al-Sadr, however, does not have a large following among majority Shiites - many see him as a renegade, too young and too headstrong to lead wisely.

"They're not acting in the name of religion, they're acting in the name of arrogating for themselves political power and influence through violence, because they can't get it through peaceful persuasion," he said.

In the latest U.S. deaths, five Marines were killed Monday - one in Fallujah and the others on the western outskirts of Baghdad. Four U.S. soldiers were killed in attacks in Baghdad, Kirkuk and Mosul on Monday and another was killed in Baghdad Tuesday. Eight Americans were killed in Sadr City on Sunday. Excluding the report out of Ramadi on Tuesday evening, at least 614 American troops have died in Iraq since the war began.

Marines waged a fierce battle for hours Tuesday with gunmen holed up in a residential neighborhood of Fallujah. The military used a deadly AC-130 gunship to lay down a barrage of fire against guerrillas, and commanders said Marines were holding an area several blocks deep inside the

city. At least two Marines were wounded.

The crackdown on al-Sadr, who has drawn backing from young and impoverished Shiites with rousing sermons demanding a U.S. withdrawal, sent his black-garbed militiamen against coalition troops Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Fighting in the southern cities of Nasiriyah, Kut, Karbala and Amarah and in a northern Baghdad neighborhood killed 30 Iraqis, coalition military officials said. Tuesday evening, gunfire was heard in another part of Baghdad, Sadr City, where fierce battles occurred Sunday, residents said. Fearing a U.S. move to arrest him, al-Sadr on Tuesday left a fortress-like mosque in the city of Kufa, south of Baghdad, where he had been holed up for days, his aides said.

Al-Sadr issued a statement saying he was ready to die to oust the Americans. He urged his followers to resist foreign forces.

"America has shown its evil intentions, and the proud Iraqi people cannot accept it. They must defend their rights by any means they see fit," the al-Sadr statement said.

"I'm prepared to have my own blood shed for what is holy to me," he said. Al-Sadr moved to his main office in Najaf, in an alley near the city's holiest shrine, according to a top aide, Sheikh Qays al-Khaz'ali.

Hundreds of militiamen were protecting the office Tuesday, but there was no independent confirmation al-Sadr was there.

Perhaps more worrisome than the current fight with al-Sadr's forces is the possibility that he will start drawing support from more mainstream Shiite leaders who have largely supported the Americans until now.

The U.S.-led coalition announced a murder warrant against al-Sadr on Monday and suggested it would move to capture him soon. U.S. officials would not explain why they were only releasing word of the warrant Monday. They said an unnamed Iraqi judge had issued it in the past months.

Still, the heavy battles over the past three days showed that even with limited backing, al-Sadr's al-Mahdi Army militia is capable of a damaging fight. The militiamen clashed with coalition troops Sunday in Baghdad and outside Najaf in fierce fighting that killed 61 people, including eight American soldiers.

In Nasiriyah on Tuesday, 15 Iraqis were killed and 35 wounded in clashes between militiamen and Italian troops, coalition spokeswoman Paola Della Casa told Italian news agency Apcom. Eleven Italian troops were slightly wounded.

Della Casa said the Iraqi attackers used civilians as human shields, and a woman and two children were among the dead. Fighting overnight in Amarah between al-Sadr's followers and British troops killed 15 Iraqis and wounded eight, said coalition spokesman Wun Hornbyckle.

In Kut, militiamen attacked an armored personnel carrier carrying Ukrainian soldiers, killing one and wounding five, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said. Two militiamen were killed in the fight. Ukraine has about 1,650 troops in Iraq.

U.S. Marines encircled Fallujah early Monday, and on Tuesday, they penetrated several central neighborhoods for the first time. Mortar and rocket-propelled grenade blasts were heard, and one witness said a Humvee was ablaze.

Woman acquitted of murdering two sons

TYLER, Texas (AP) — A woman who claimed God ordered her to bash in the heads of her sons was acquitted Saturday of all charges after a jury determined she was legally insane during the killings. A jury found that Deanna Laney did not know right from wrong May 9 when she killed her two older sons, ages 6 and 8, in the front yard and left the youngest, now 2, maimed in his crib. Laney, 39, was found not guilty by reason of insanity of charges of capital murder and serious injury to a child. Laney broke into tears as the verdict was read. Her husband, Keith Laney, sat emotionless. A few jurors cried and struggled to maintain their composure. State law allows Laney to be committed to a maximum security state hospital. Medical evaluations will dictate when she will be released.

In closing arguments earlier Saturday, prosecutors portrayed the killings last Mother's Day weekend as deceptively planned and coldly executed. "It was graphic, it was horrific and it was brutal," prosecutor Matt Bingham told the jury. Laney had faced life in prison

for the deaths of 8-year-old Joshua and 6-year-old Luke, and the beating of Aaron, now 2.

Bingham pounded his fist in his hand as he recounted Joshua's killing: "He got strike after strike after strike on his head to the point that his brains were coming out of his head like liquid."

Defense attorneys argued that insanity was the only reason why a deeply religious mother who homeschooled her children would kill two of them and maim another without so much as a tear. All five mental health experts consulted in the case, including two for the prosecution and one for the judge, concluded that a severe mental illness caused Laney to have psychotic delusions that rendered her incapable of knowing right from wrong during the killings - the standard in Texas for insanity. Psychiatrists testified that Laney believed she was divinely chosen by God - just as Mary was chosen to bear Christ - to kill her children as a test of faith and then serve as a witness after the world ended.

—By The Associated Press

MARYLAND BRIEFS

BWI evacuated; flights delayed after security breach

LINTHICUM, Md. (AP) - A section of Baltimore-Washington International Airport was evacuated and flights were delayed for up to two hours early Monday after security screeners spotted an apparent knife in a carry-on bag.

A baggage screener spotted an X-ray image of what appeared to be a knife in a carry-on bag about 5:20 a.m. at the security checkpoint outside Pier D, airport spokeswoman Holly Ellison said.

The owner walked away before the bag could be examined by hand, prompting Maryland Transportation authorities to issue a red alert and empty the entire tier of passengers.

All passengers had to be re-screened before they could re-enter the pier, causing delays for morning flights, Ellison said.

BWI spokesman Jonathan Dean said airport operations returned to normal between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

The airport was particularly busy Monday because many area schools have started spring break and families typically schedule vacations for the week.

"It's very busy, very hectic," Ellison said.

Transportation security authorities could not describe the passenger or the bag, which is why all passengers had to be re-screened, spokeswoman Chris Rhatigan said.

Rhatigan said the two screeners

would be retrained.

The incident created what Ellison described as "a domino effect" leading to flight delays throughout the airport.

BWI suggested travelers allow 90 minutes extra to make their flight Monday morning.

Maryland Priest accused of sexual abuse of minor

LANDSDOWNE, Md. (AP) - A former Roman Catholic priest who admitted filing a false carjacking report to cover up a night spent with a male prostitute has been accused of sexually abusing a boy, the Archdiocese of Baltimore said.

Steven Girard, who resigned in 2002, is alleged to have abused the boy on the grounds of a church in Landsdowne in the early 1990s, said Sean Caine, an archdiocesan spokesman.

No charges have been filed in the case, which is being investigated by the Baltimore County state's attorney's office and the archdiocese, Caine said Sunday.

Girard's attorney, Arnold Zerwitz, said his client "emphatically and completely denied" the allegation.

Zerwitz said Girard is in an unfair position because church officials have not identified the accuser.

The archdiocese would only say that he is no longer a minor.

Girard was sentenced in 2002 to one year of supervised probation af-

ter admitting to the false carjacking report.

Univ. of MD students in trouble after shouting questions

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) - Three students have been accused of disorderly conduct by the University of Maryland after they shouted during a taped interview of Lynne Cheney, the wife of Vice President Dick Cheney.

School administrators said that by shouting out of turn during the February interview at the campus' student union, the trio violated the university's Code of Student Conduct.

An account by campus police states that one student called out an obscenity after Cheney expressed an opinion, a second shouted a question about reparations for slavery during a lull in the interview and the third student yelled a question about gay marriage.

The American Civil Liberties Union has written to the university's Office of Judicial Programs on the students' asking that the charges be dropped and expunged from the students' records.

In the letter, the ACLU said that the students did not prevent Cheney from speaking and that pursuing the charges may strain the First Amendment rights of all students.

An interview scheduled for one of the students with university officials is scheduled for April 7.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

BoE: Way to be

Over the past year, the Board of Election (BoE) has established an infamous reputation of poorly held elections and poor student awareness. Different problems have piled up with each election, from last year's rushed elections to this year's debacle of disqualification, controversy and secrecy. We have repeatedly criticized the BoE in the past for dropping the ball on Student Council (StuCo) elections time and again.

Now, the BoE has finally stepped up to the challenge of running a clean, fair and well-publicized election. More than two weeks before the April 18-19 elections, the BoE sent out several emails to all students announcing the elections, a mandatory candidate information session, and election regulations sessions.

Proper elections can not be held unless voters are properly notified in advance, and the BoE has clearly realized this. With a system that sets a new precedent for organization and publicity, students can regain confidence in the BoE and StuCo. In addition, we believe that students who have

more time to consider running for office will be more likely to do so, resulting in a larger candidate field and more choices for voters.

Still, the BoE can not stop here. Student trust in the election system needs to be built over time, and hopefully students can begin to look forward to officer elections rather than being oblivious to the fact that they ever happened, or how they turned out.

We hope that the BoE will continue striving to keep students aware well in advance of elections, to the fullest extent possible. We also look forward to congratulating the BoE in two weeks on well-run presidential, class officer, senator and young trustee elections.

Communication must be maintained with all students as the process unfolds. Major developments must be dealt with in a consistent manner. Results must be published as soon as possible. With these procedures handled in the same way that the BoE has thus far handled the upcoming elections, we are confident that April 18-19 will be a sound success.

SAC comes through

In the wake of the "Red Zone" and a year plagued with tight finances, the Student Activities Commission (SAC) completed last weekend's annual budget allocations on the right foot: having allocated \$210,136 to Class A groups, the SAC kept its word and stepped forward with more money remaining for distribution next year – \$116,455, to be exact.

We realize that it was no small feat overcoming October's budget crisis, which found the SAC with \$25,376.17, less than 10 percent of its annual budget. With over 10 new student groups, the SAC from the previous year had been too liberal in funding annual budgets and student programming events. It left this year's SAC with a contingency just under \$80,000 to last for the rest of the academic year.

Not only was the SAC forced for the first time to define emergency funding policies, but the board took action to redefine funding policies in general. It was a necessary move—although the SAC has always adhered to its funding policy, the former policies were simply too lenient. The Red Zone forced the SAC to clarify its support for campus events and

University-oriented activities. Although some student groups received less money this year than last—like the Taekwondo Club, whose coach salary is above the new salary cap and so received only 60 percent of their allocation from last year—it is in the best interest of the student body for the SAC to prioritize campus-wide events.

Additionally, the SAC made a responsible move to budget, if only in theory, \$200,000 for Class A allocations this weekend. After last year's annual budgeting left such a meager contingency, this year's board strove to keep \$100,00 as contingency for next year. Their foresight to address the problems of last year is well-recieved.

We commend the SAC for enacting and enforcing policies that are truly fiscally conservative, and urge them to remain acutely aware of their allocations as the year continues. So that the "Red Zone" does not reappear, they must remain open-minded and proactive about modifying policies again if the budget should become tight. Nevertheless, we cautiously agree with SAC chairperson Ben Wardlow that next year's SAC could really be set up to be "golden."

Block Party worth repeating

Rain and cold couldn't dampen the appeal of free samosas and sushi at last Friday's Cultural Block Party. Moved from fall to spring, and then from 34th St. to the Glass Pavilion, the second annual festival reorganized spontaneously but was nonetheless a success.

To put it simply, this type of event should take place more often. With so many cultural interest and dance groups on campus, a unified event is the perfect solution to allow students to see them all at once.

Senior Jon Groce, who launched the Block Party in Fall 2002, said that cultural groups on campus have all the material for a cultural celebration but simply needed a coordinator to bring them under a single spotlight.

As Cultural Liaison for the Student Activities Commission (SAC), Groce had the connections to campus groups that he needed, and the outdoor festival in Fall 2002 attracted over 1,000 visitors to the block between Wolman and McCoy Halls.

The fact that this year's Block Party still attracted students despite inclement weather and last minute relocation indoors speaks for itself.

From the Caribbean Cultural Society distributing tropical fruits to DSAGA giving out skittles and free condoms, the Cultural Block Party was not only fun but delicious. As BSU Black History Month chairperson Samantha Simpson said, "Everyone was trying everyone else's food and loving it."

Students enjoy seeing what their fellow students do on campus, and although cultural groups actively maintain a steady schedule of individual events and performances, the Block Party increases awareness of the vast number of cultural groups actually out there. Each of the 19 student groups who participated in the festival benefited from positive publicity.

The Block Party greatly enhances awareness by giving students a chance to try something new and learn from it. Instead of having one Block Party each year, let's have one each semester. The free food and lively entertainment are a break from the daily grind. In creating the Cultural Block Party, Groce has established an excellent program, and the University should happily agree to fund it for a double encore next year.

WILLIAMPARSCHALK



LETTERSTOTHEEDITOR

FAS's Robertson advertising shameful

I'd like to clarify some things in last week's Pat Robertson story ("Robertson analyzes foreign policy," April 1). The article quoted me as not having any comment on Robertson's speech, when in fact, I said I could care less what Pat Robertson's views on foreign policy were; everyone is entitled to their opinion on what world leaders are doing. What concerned me was his blatant disrespect towards people unlike him and the misinformed views of Islam upon which he bases his ideas of foreign policy. What's worse is that thousands of people who may not know better listen to him and believe what he says.

Also, the Muslim Association was not handing out flyers that defended Robertson's previous statements, as the

article said. We were doing quite the opposite. The Muslim Association handed out informational flyers at the event in response to the Foreign Affairs Symposium's advertising, which quoted a misinformed and inflammatory statement by Pat Robertson about Islam being inherently violent as justified by the Quran. Although the Symposium's intent was to provoke interest in the event, the publicity slan-

dered a specific religion, even if it simply presented the opinion of the speaker. The Symposium had no grounds to market their event with a hateful statement, especially when Robertson was invited to speak on foreign policy and not Islam and the Quran.

Andleeb Khan
President,
JHU Muslim Association

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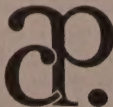
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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Events: Students can't find them ...

Poor advertising is the one of the main reasons social and academic events are under-attended at Hopkins. The Office of Student Life must co-ordinate with other offices in the administration to increase the opportunity for student groups to advertise. At the same time, the leaders of student groups on campus have to realize the importance of advertising extensively and early for their events.

Go to almost any college campus in the United States and you'll see tall cylinders covered like paper birch trees with dozens of flyers for campus events.

A similar column was just installed next to the brick pathway in front of Hodson Hall. This was a move in the right direction for making it easier for student groups to advertise their events. Still, one out-



ILLUSTRATION BY WILLIAM PARSHALK/NEWS-LETTER

effective—it could be referring to a past Saturday. Students who do publicity need to give more precise information or else their target audience

won't materialize. Nobody wants to waste an evening trekking out to an event that occurred a month ago. More commonly, events are un-

der-attended because they are not advertised far enough in advance. The Freshman Formal, which was announced only ten days before the dance, only drew a tenth of the class. If invitations had been sent out a month ahead of time, there would have been more time for word to get around about the dance.

As for publicity by the most important (and least organized) organization on campus, the Board of Elections (BoE) must give better notice of its elections and candidate meetings. On April 2 at 4:47 p.m., the BoE sent out an e-mail announcing a string of meetings for candidates for the upcoming class elections.

This announcement initially struck me as a blinding flash of competency in the darkness of disorganization that is the BoE.

However, my vision was quickly restored as I realized the first information meeting was scheduled for 5:00 p.m., giving candidates an ample thirteen minutes to arrive at Gilman.

Still, the fact that the BoE gave any notice at all is a step in the right direction. The e-mail details all the important candidate meetings for the coming weeks, as well as the time of the candidate forum.

To end on a positive note, I commend the staff of the MSE Symposium for their excellent publicity work for this year's speakers. The lectures have been advertised far in advance, and well-designed flyers have been posted on boards around the school.

The unprecedented crowds that attended the lectures were there not just because of the prominence of the speakers, but also because of the good work of the symposium committee. Other student groups at Hopkins would be well advised to look to the Symposium staff's work as a model for their own publicity strategies.

Joshua Robinson's column appears every two weeks.

EU must encourage Turkey's accession

In less than four weeks, the European Union (EU) will expand from an exclusively Western European group of 10 to an increasingly more diverse collection of 25. Among the most prominent of these new states are the former-Communist nations. 60 years after Churchill's "percentages agreement" consigned them to a fate under the Russians, these nations are finally being reintegrated into the West. Two more, Romania and Bulgaria, are slated to join in the coming years.

But even as these countries prepare for membership, one major Cold War player remains conspicuously absent from near-term accession — Turkey. Despite its history with the EU, beginning with an Association Agreement in 1963 followed by an application for membership in 1987, other nations have leaped passed Turkey and become members with even more belated applications. And while making some progress, only recently it received assurances that its application for full membership will finally be considered in 2004.

Until now, the EU has cited various obstacles to accession, mainly listing areas in which Turkey has not met the Copenhagen Criteria that define the expectations for applicants to have fulfilled before negotiations can begin. Among the prominent concerns are Turkey's treatment of the Kurdish

minority, its use of the death penalty and its continued conflict over the divided island of Cyprus — one of the 10 nations set to enter on May 1.

For its part, Turkey has attempted to shift its policy in line with EU norms. It has worked toward peace with the Kurds, abolished the death penalty and is now, finally, working with the Greek Cypriots to negotiate an end to the stalemate ahead of that country's accession. Nonetheless, as Danish press attaché Samuel Magid said, "I think that everyone agrees, including Turkey, they have a long way to go before this."

But for Turkey, the seemingly endless delays are not a question of adopting the *acquis communautaire*, but a product of veiled racism. Certainly, current member states are aware that with 61 million people, the accession of Turkey would place it as the second-largest member in the union. Additionally, this would allow the free movement of Turkish labor as part of the common market. With already two million Turks working in the EU and with an in-

come average only around one third that of the EU, more might be expected to emigrate west. Already finding it difficult to deal with existing Muslim populations in their countries, as France's recent headscarf ban reveals, a new influx would threaten to further divide West European nations.

All this puts Europeans in a difficult spot. Admittedly, they hope to have a more prominent and influential presence in foreign affairs. Yet it's a hypocritical, and ultimately self-defeating, policy for them to have withheld support for our democracy building project in Iraq because of the method but also not be more openly favorable of a peaceful means toward the same end in Turkey. It seems reasonable that if the EU truly wants to be a player in global politics, it should focus on continuing to help Turkey's accession as well as rewarding the country for the strides they have already made. If Europe is serious about building stability, what could be better than to embrace an Arab country, devoted to democracy, into the family of Western nations? Indeed, it has been the position of the United States to encourage a speedy accession through formal support.

Echoing their recent frustration with America's foreign policy, however, Magid claims that the United States' desire to hasten the accession of Turkey shows a "surprising ignorance or willingness to ignore circumstances or care." And while he is right that the point of such a lengthy accession process is that the new countries are meant to harmonize with the others, a more encouraging stance by the Union would strengthen its own position on the global scene while sending a strong message to the only Arab democracy in the Middle East that there are tangible benefits to pursuing a policy of peace and freedom over one of terror and autocracy.

But like the requirements of interoperability in NATO, it's not just a question of having the right hardware, but a broader expectation that accession countries share a well-defined set of values, including a commitment to democracy, protecting human and minority rights and others. Less tangibly, these are also issues of history, culture and goals.

The success with the former-Communist nations demonstrates, however, that the EU is not just a free-trade zone but a democracy-building project as well. Turkey's application offers a distinctive chance to reinforce this notion. To withhold Turkey from this opportunity would be passing up a unique chance to buttress our fledgling democratic experiment in the Middle East and to bolster the EU's claim that it can be a major player in foreign policy.

David Leiman's column appears every two weeks.

DAVID LEIMAN
THE DOUBLED EDGE

But for Turkey, the seemingly endless delays are not a question of adopting the *acquis communautaire*, but a product of veiled racism.

... But fixes won't come without students

Given the expression of concern about the diversity and amount of student opinion expressed to the Middle States Evaluation Team visiting Johns Hopkins as part of the Middle States accreditation process, it seems timely to review for students the nature and scope of student input during the entire study of undergraduate education that has gone on over the past two years, of which the visit by the evaluation team was but one component.

Some have characterized the over 150 students who were invited to meet with members of the Evaluation Team as "handpicked." To the extent that

these students were "picked," most were picked by their fellow students to head up some of the many interest groups on campus, ranging from the JHU Band to the JHU Tutorial Project to the Muslim Students Association. We also made an effort to include Resident Advisors, student athletes and ROTC members. We had no idea who would choose to participate, what the evaluation team would discuss and what these students thought about any matters that might be brought up, but given the variety of interests represented, our assumption was that there was bound to be a diversity of views. In retrospect, a broadcast e-mail should probably have been sent to supplement the public announcement

in the *Gazette* and these personalized invitations.

While we will take seriously the recommendations of the Middle States Evaluation Team, that one evening of conversation with several dozen students is far from the only student input that has informed the discussions about undergraduate education or that will influence the course of future decisions. In addition to the recent sophomore survey and focus groups, examples include a targeted web survey and focus group for juniors; a survey about various aspects of the class schedule under development to augment the input from the student members of the committee; and a senior survey that is part of a series done every two years. Responses to this same survey in 2002 and to a college student experience questionnaire gave us the input of 400 and 1700 students, respectively. These opinions were extraordinarily influen-

tial in helping the Commission on Undergraduate Education (CUE) identify areas that needed improvement. And, as important, the several hundred written comments that accompanied the surveys (which we deans all read) were responsible for some immediate changes, even before the CUE recommendations were formulated, e.g., restoring meal plan options in Levering, returning Spring Fair to the quads and instituting a faculty speaker series in the residence halls, to name a few.

We are trying to create a culture of assessment and ongoing evaluation of student satisfaction with specific services and aspects of the Hopkins experience.

We are trying to create a culture of assessment and of ongoing evaluation of student satisfaction with specific services and aspects of the Hopkins experience. Housing has again used a questionnaire to evaluate satisfaction with the residential experience. During CUE, a special housing survey provided student input on housing preferences and

to that objective. There are ways that students can help, too. Students can complete teacher course evaluations. Seniors can respond to the senior survey. Graduating students can accept the invitation to participate in a senior interview. And, any students with concerns about any issue can call me anytime to come by and tell me what they think. I welcome that.

Vice Provost Paula Burger is Vice Dean for Undergraduate Education.

PAUL BURGER
MY TURN

This year, we will be also implementing annual senior interviews to gather qualitative data from a sample of about one-fifth of the graduating class. These will be 30 to 45 minute individual interviews with the deans and other administrative officers focusing on the strengths and weaknesses of the Hopkins experience.

I am in the process of creating a Dean's Advisory Committee to advise me about both academic and social student life issues at Homewood and to establish a forum where issues of concern can be addressed. Some members will be invited to serve by virtue of their leadership positions, but there will also be the opportunity for other students to nominate themselves.

There is always room for improvement in campus communications and for enhancing the quantity and quality of student input through focus groups, surveys and direct involvement, and we are committed

to that objective. There are ways that students can help, too. Students can complete teacher course evaluations. Seniors can respond to the senior survey. Graduating students can accept the invitation to participate in a senior interview. And, any students with concerns about any issue can call me anytime to come by and tell me what they think. I welcome that.

Vice Provost Paula Burger is Vice Dean for Undergraduate Education.

Nyack confronts Bush on marriage

The most controversial debate currently surrounding our nation's politics is not about weapons of mass destruction, health care or education, but rather gay marriage. The president recently gave support to a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, saying, "Government, by recognizing and protecting marriage, serves the interests of all. Today, I call upon the Congress to promptly pass and to send to the states for ratification an amendment to our Constitution defining and protecting marriage as a union of a man and woman as husband and wife."

In this same speech, given on Feb. 24, Bush also spoke about the importance of small government and the overwhelming magnitude of a constitutional amendment, yet he still thinks a ban on gay marriage is worthy of exercising Article Five of the Constitution and amending the constitution.

However, this is also a civil rights issue. People are in an uproar over the Patriot Act and the infringements on civil rights since Sept. 11 — isn't the ban on gay marriages an infringement on civil rights as well? By not allowing our fellow countrymen to enjoy the rights inherent in civil marriages, aren't we infringing on their civil rights? Many Americans make arguments against gay marriage, stating that marriage should only be between a man and woman and that even though homosexual relationships date back to the Roman Empire, marriage has always been recognized

as being between a man and woman. This should not be allowed to change, they say, it is part of our human history. Using that logic, however, slavery should still be allowed, because it is also part of our human history dating back to the Roman Empire.

The reality is, people do change. America changes. Just 50 years ago,

STEPHANIE HAUSNER
GUEST COLUMN

African Americans were segregated, unable to attend the same schools as whites, unable to ride on buses with whites and even unable to drink out of the same water fountain as whites. Now, I think most Americans would agree that was a time to change our history.

I have the privilege of living in a fairly liberal and accepting community in Rockland County, NY. However, even in Rockland, there are people who have problems with communities that, like ours, act to ensure the rights of all of the members of the community. Recently, Nyack Mayor John Shields granted full legal rights to same-sex married couples and their families in the village. In a Feb. 24 interview with the *Rockland Journal News*, Shields said, "Respecting marriages performed elsewhere is one more way to demonstrate my commitment to families and their importance in our community. It seems

to me that people who form commitments add to a community."

Shield's stand, and the overwhelming support of the community — both homosexual and heterosexual — has not gone unnoticed by the Rev. Fred Phelps, an anti-gay activist. Phelps came to protest in Nyack last weekend, bringing with him members of his Westboro Baptist Church from Topeka, KS. I was among the hundreds of Rockland County community members who went to Town Hall to protest Phelps' visit. The majority of the people in the crowd were heterosexual, or as one woman's sign said, "Straight not narrow." We were there to show support for members of our community and to stand up for their rights to be equal members of our society.

As Americans, we are often quick to judge the lack of civil liberties as well as the human rights violations of our allies and others around the world. But if we take off our rose-colored glasses, we can see that we are not qualified to judge. Our society still has changing of its own to do.

We live in a world filled with hate. As Americans, we are often the subjects of hatred by others. We believe it is because we are a free society which grants its citizens equal rights. Yet, hatred, in the form of self-righteousness from within our country puts this notion of equal rights at risk. We must not allow an amendment to our constitution that supports this type of bigotry.

Stephanie Hausner is a sophomore.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Job outsourcing affects JHU

BY JOELLE URRUTIA
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

It's the newest trend for companies across the United States outsourcing information technology (IT) departments to smaller companies overseas.

This trend is attracting much attention from politicians as well as students graduating in technology related fields. Even Hopkins is jumping on the outsourcing bandwagon.

The Computer Sciences Corporation (NYSE:CSC) announced on Mar. 6 a five-year outsourcing contract with Johns Hopkins Health Systems (JHHS), which provides managed care services throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, according to a news release.

Although CSC is centered in El Segundo, Calif., its has over 575 offices worldwide.

According to the Outsourcing Institute, an online source for outsourcing opportunities worldwide, some of the main reasons why companies choose to outsource include: reducing and controlling company costs, improving company focus and liberating internal resources for other purposes.

A study by the economic research firm Global Insight for the Information Technology Association of America, a high-tech trade group, supports outsourcing overseas.

It claims that offshore IT services and services outsourcing increases average real wages of U.S. workers.

It states "with lower inflation and higher productivity, real wages were 0.13 percent higher in 2003 and are expected to be 0.44 percent higher in 2008."

This seems to be good news for the American people, indicating that all will prosper from the outsourcing trend. "The benefits of global sourcing contribute significantly to real gross domestic product in the United States, adding \$33.6 billion in 2003."

As a mechanical engineer who is paying a lot of money for an education in the United States, I am concerned that many jobs in my field are being relocated overseas. I worry that the job market will get even more competitive ... and fewer jobs in the States will be available. I am strongly against it.

-JUNIOR BEN TOPPER

But many Americans aren't too quick to praise international outsourcing of IT services.

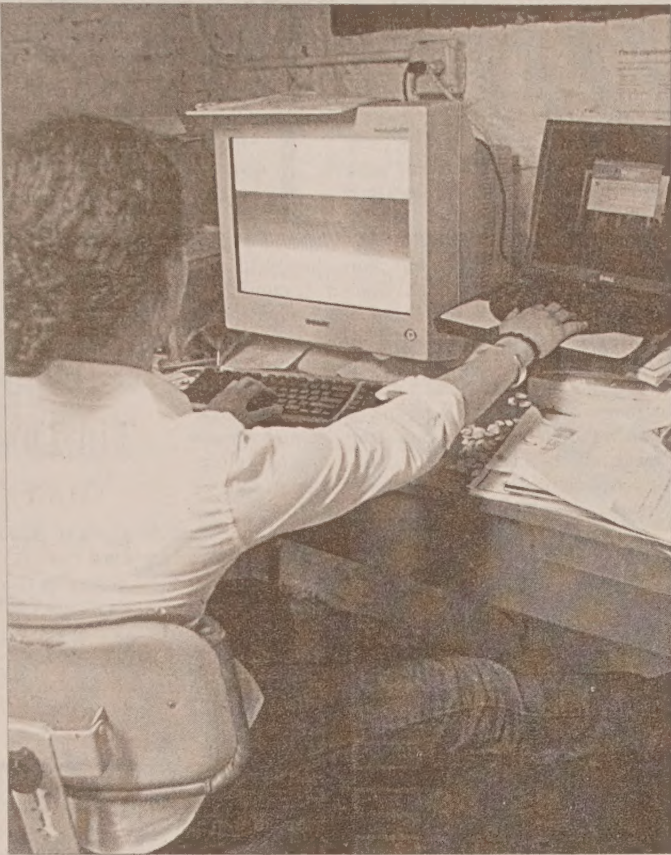
Many prospective graduating students are concerned that by outsourcing tech jobs overseas, companies are limiting the opportunities they offer to our own nation's job market.

Ben Topper, a junior at JHU, said "as a mechanical engineer who is paying a lot of money for an education in the United States, I am concerned that many jobs in my field are being relocated overseas."

I worry that the job market will get even more competitive, with more people than ever graduating from universities and now (because of outsourcing) fewer jobs in the states will be available. I am strongly against it."

Still, other Hopkins undergraduates, such as Nikhil Palekar, a computer science major, understand the practicality of outsourcing.

"I think that due to globalization, firms must utilize the advantages of different markets in order to gain a competitive advantage so if labor is cheaper in a particular geographic location and the goods produced or quality as those provided in a more expensive market, it is necessary that firms



LINDSAY SAXE/NEWS-LETTER
Tech support centers are being outsourced to IT hotbeds such as India.

utilize this disparity in costs to their advantage..."

Students do have reason to worry however. According to a recent study by the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), the migration of tech jobs to low-paid foreigners has eliminated 104,000 American jobs, nearly 3

percent of the positions in the U.S. technology industry. The study insists however that although outsourcing has thrown some Americans out of work and hinders the hiring of hundreds of others, the trend will ultimately lower inflation, create jobs and boost productivity in the U.S.

Hopkins finds blood vessel connections in ears and eyes

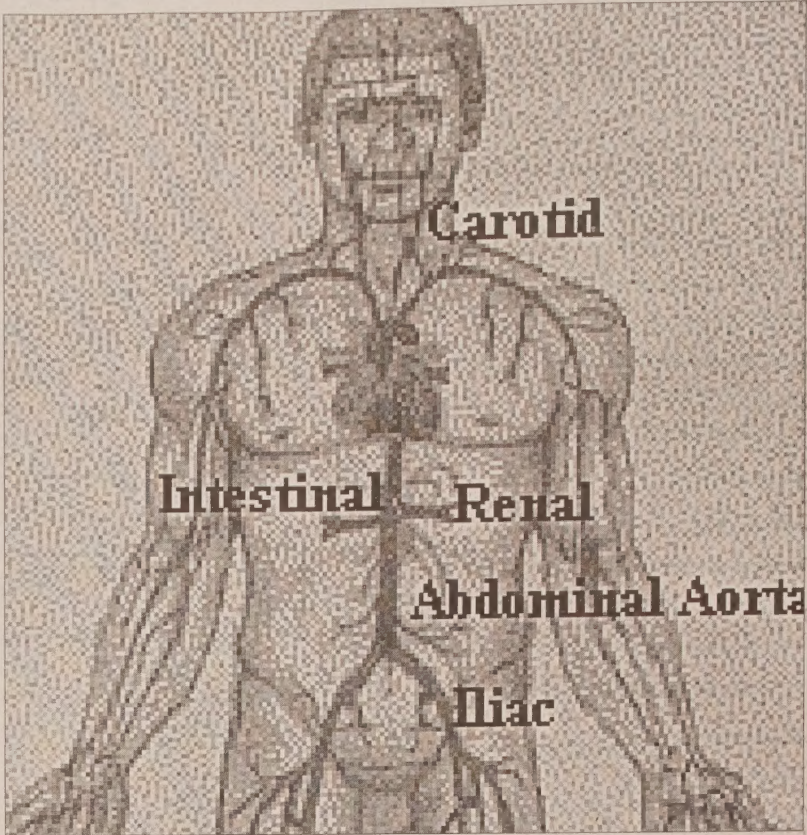
BY PATRICK KERNS
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The molecular cause of blindness in two congenital diseases, previously thought to be unrelated, has been discovered by researchers at the Johns Hopkins and Howard Hughes Medical Institutes.

Their experiments showed that defects in proteins required for blood vessel growth in the eyes and ears causes both familial exudative vitreoretinopathy (FEVR) and Norrie's Disease, both of which cause blindness and eventual loss of hearing in the case of the latter.

The discovery of such a localized signal pathway for angiogenesis (blood vessel growth) is significant in scientists' growing understanding of the phenomenon, which is important in the development of cancer, treating heart attacks and poor limb circulation.

The focus of the researchers' experiments were two proteins called Frizzled-4 and Norrin, which cause



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ENDO-VASCULAR.COM/](http://www.endo-vascular.com/)
Blood vessels throughout the body play significant roles in a variety of diseases.

FEVR and Norrie Disease, respectively.

Yanshu Wang, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Jeremy Nathans, M.D., Ph.D., created a line of knockout mice for the

Frizzled-4 gene roughly four years ago. Wang made the observation that her knockout mice showed problems in blood vessel growth very close to that seen in Norrie's Disease, which is characterized by development problems in eyes and ears.

This similarity lead Quiang Xu, Ph.D. to begin a series of experiments to determine whether the proteins involved in causing the two diseases interacted in any way.

The "specificity and high affinity of Norrin-Fz4 binding" lead to a theory that Norrin, a secreted protein, bound Frizzled-4, a receptor protein, and activated a series of intracellular signals that led to angiogenesis, according to their paper "Vascular Development in the Retina and Inner Ear: Control by Norrin and Frizzled-4, a High-Affinity Ligand-Receptor Pair," published in the journal *Cell* in March of 2004.

Information about these two congenital diseases has been around for over a decade.

The "Norrie disease gene was found almost 12 years ago, but until now no one had been able to figure out what its product protein did or how it caused the disease."

Because the proteins involved in the Norrie disease and FEVR are parts of the same processes, these aren't two diseases, they are really two versions of the same disease," said Nathans in a recent Hopkins press release.

These discoveries are significant, according to Dr. Xu, because "understanding more about how this pathway functions could provide useful information for the development of drugs to treat the two diseases, FEVR and Norrie's disease. That information might also aid in understanding other blood vessel disorders associated with diabetes, cancer and heart disease."

Xu explained the thrust of the future research he and his colleagues intend to pursue, saying "now, our study is to pinpoint exactly how Norrin binds to and turns on Frizzled-4, and to find other players in the Frizzled-4-Norrin pathway."

In order to explain the Frizzled-4 and Norrin binding and look for additional members of the pathway, the team intends to utilize protein structure and biochemical tests.

Co-first authors on the Cell paper, Xu and Wang, were assisted by Alain Dabdoub and Chad Woods of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Philip Smallwood and John Williams of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Li Jang and Kang Zhang of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, University of Utah, as well as William Tasman of the Wills Eye Hospital, Pennsylvania, and Jeremy Nathans of Hopkins Medical and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Their work was funded by a collection of grants from the Ruth and Milton Steinbach Fund, the NIH, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the National Eye Institute and the Ronald McDonald House Charities Fund.

Fertility rates decrease as women work

BY ESTHER HWANG
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

With society opening more doors for women as the years go by, women no longer are required to put family and household first.

As a result, changing lifestyles put women at a greater risk for infertility and difficulty in bearing children when they do decide to raise a family.

One of the biggest problems is women who decide to hold off raising a family until later in life.

A woman's fertility is inversely proportional to her increasing age. After 35, a woman's fertility declines from 90 percent to approximately 67 percent.

By 45, her fertility declines sharply to only 15 percent.

A woman enters her fertile years during puberty, when she begins her menstrual cycle.

The ability to conceive is dependent upon whether or not an egg has been released. This is prompted by Follicle - Stimulating Hormone (FSH), which promotes the maturation of a few follicles in the ovaries.

Ultimately, there is only one dominating follicle that matures into an oocyte that will proceed to the uterus.

The ruptured follicle forms a yellow tissue known as the corpus luteum. FSH stimulates the production of estrogen, which in turn triggers Luteinizing Hormone (LH). LH prompts the dominant follicle to rupture out of the ovary and travel into the fallopian tube.

Normally, the woman is most fertile at this time, which is approximately 14 days into the cycle.

Unless the egg is fertilized within 24 hours, the degenerating corpus luteum decreases estrogen and progesterone levels, which sheds off the endometrial lining of the uterus along with the egg. This bleeding is known as menstruation.

If fertilization does occur, the corpus luteum serves to produce estrogen and progesterone that is necessary for the uterine lining to develop.

By two to four days post fertilization, the egg moves down into the uterus where it is implanted within the uterine lining.

The placenta forms at implantation. The egg is incubated within the woman for about nine months until birth.

Even with normally functioning female and male reproductive systems, the chance of conceiving is only 15 percent within the first month of trying.

Only 60 percent of couples succeed by six months.

According to a University of California, Davis study, there are many different factors to consider today that

can affect fertility.

Weight can play a major factor in the balance of estrogen, one of the most important hormones produced by women.

Being 10 to 15 percent above the normal bodily fat levels can increase fertility abnormalities because of estrogen overload throwing off the woman's normal reproductive cycle.

This is due to the fact that about a third of a woman's estrogen production is in the fat cells of her body that convert androgens into estrogen.

Additionally, body fat that is 10 to 15 percent below the normally acceptable levels can partially shunt or completely shut down the reproductive cycle.

Many women who have eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa, have nutritional deficiencies, are on restrictive diets or are athletes that train strenuously can be high at risk for decreased fertility levels.

Low body fat content also triggers menstrual cycle abnormalities that include amenorrhea, or the absence of a period.

Furthermore, more and more women are opting to have high-stress and fast-paced careers that can drive them to smoke or rely on caffeine and alcohol to relax or get through their busy days.

Even without these substances, the stress that women deal with some days is enough to affect the reproductive

tract.

Many women, now at younger and younger ages, deal with irregular and/or missed periods at times because of high levels of stress.

Since women are not required to be domestic as was encouraged a generation ago, they are able to perform successfully in relationships and society as any man can.

As a result, it is more likely for women to have more than one sexual partner in her lifetime, not get married immediately and engage in casual relationships.

This increases the chances of infections that can affect the reproductive system.

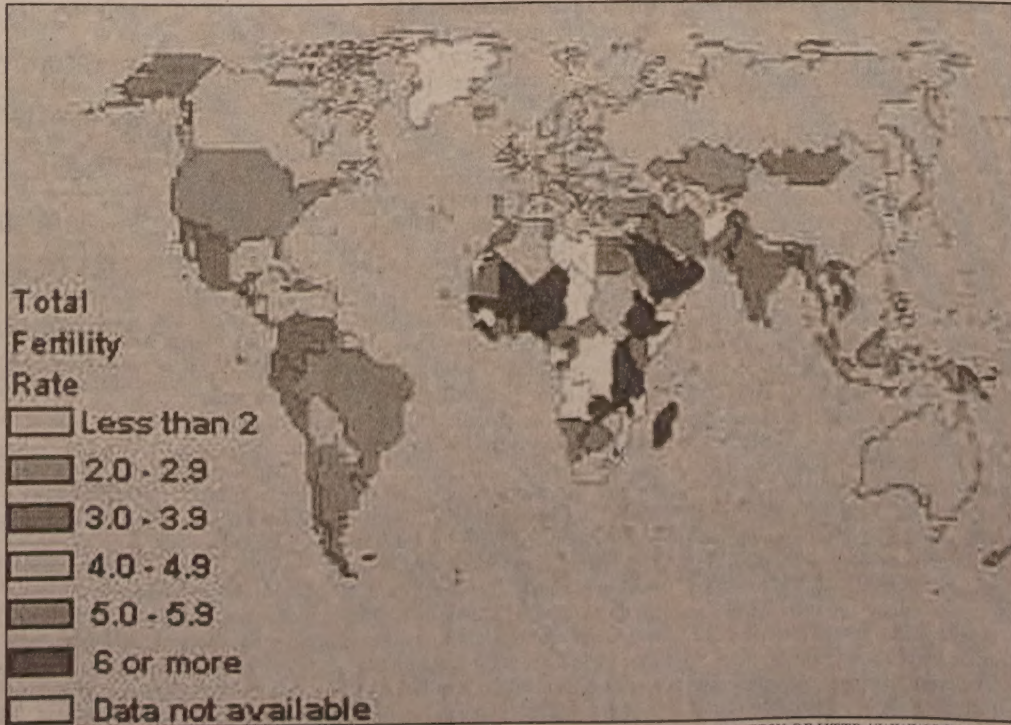
Rise of technology in the world utilizes chemicals that are counteractive with estrogen.

Due to this advance in technology, some environmental chemicals such as pesticides can hurt a woman's fertility.

It is more likely for women to have more than one sexual partner in her lifetime, not get married immediately, and engage in casual relationships. This increases the chances of infections that can affect the reproductive system.

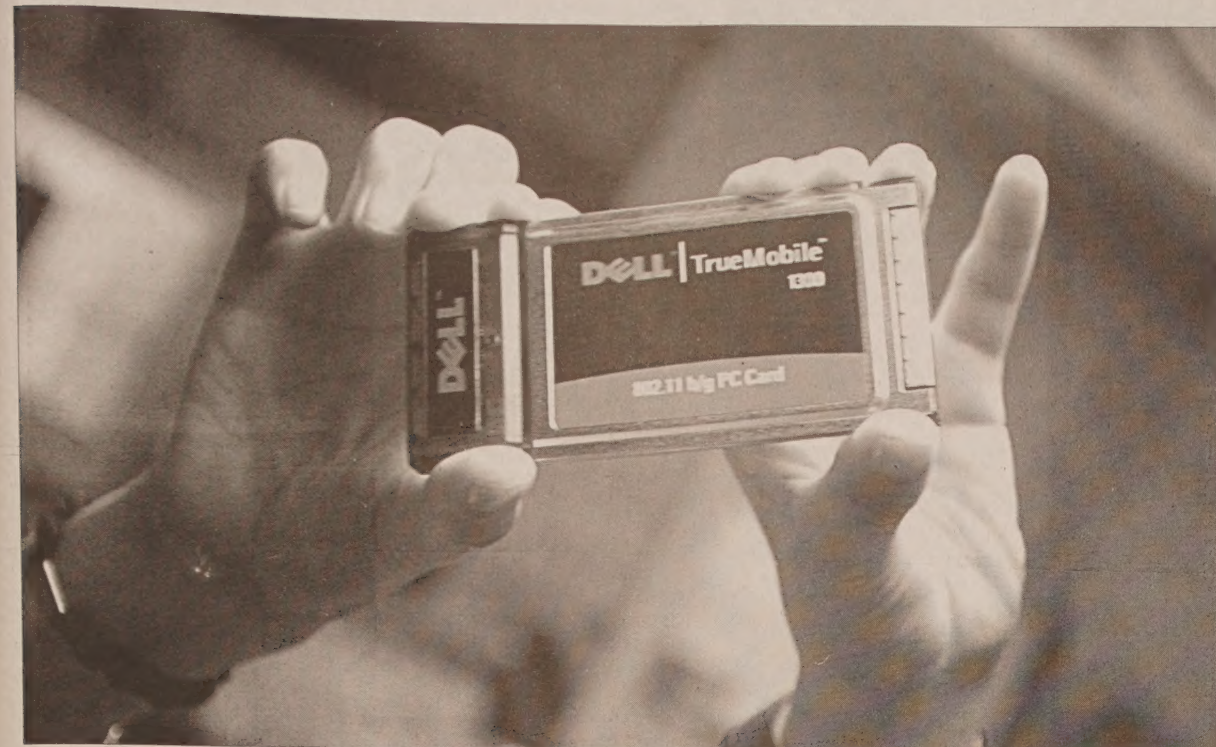
rise to 7.7 million by the year 2025.

In Japan alone, fertility rates have dropped to the lowest levels of all time as a result of increasing child costs and an increase of women into the workplace.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.WRI.ORG/](http://www.wri.org/)
Worldwide fertility rates are stagnant if not declining everywhere except for Africa and the Middle East.

JHU embraces wireless technology



Wireless cards are necessary for older model computers, which don't have built-in cards to allow wireless connection.

BY RAM CHIVUKULA
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Do you ever wish that you could sit in the middle of the beach and browse the internet as you sip coffee and enjoy the serenity of the elements of nature enveloping you? Well, it turns out that Hopkins isn't that "wired" (or should I say "wireless") after all.

When one walks around the campus, one hardly sees anyone using the wireless internet service.

The only exception is probably the library and the HUT – both places offer decent wireless internet service. However, there are limitations there, too.

For instance, the wireless internet service provided in the library is limited to the central portions near the main floor — the service gradually deteriorates as one moves away from the center of the room.

The Information Technology at the Johns Hopkins Web site claims to provide wireless LAN connectivity at major locations throughout the Homewood campus.

This includes such places as the huge lecture halls, (the ones for large introductory classes), Levering Hall, the MSE library and the HUT.

However, the general consensus among students who have used the wireless network here and at various other universities around the country seems to be that the connectivity on campus isn't very good. Additionally, and more importantly, the connections aren't secure.

Hopkins uses an encryption system called WEP, Wired Equivalent Privacy.

It has been publicly documented (http://madchat.org/reseau/wireless/WEP/wep_attack.pdf) that any network with WEP can have its key

discovered quickly.

This means that WEP, which is supposed to stop eavesdroppers, will not stop anyone.

As strange as it may sound, it appears that Hopkins goes through an extra step to make the WEP useless: they publish the key in packets you can get in Garland Hall.

Therefore, any potential eavesdropper can just walk down to the basement of Garland, pick up a packet and enter the key into his computer to eavesdrop.

To add to the disgrace, the Hopkins wireless service is inferior to those provided by more "techie" universities.

A s h e e s h L a r o i a , a s o p h o m o r e at Johns Hopkins, sums up the advantages of MIT's wireless connectivity as follows:

"I have used MIT's wireless network, and it was a breath of fresh air.

The network doesn't even bother with WEP; MIT is savvy enough to listen to people with a clue... It's ubiquitous; I've used it from class-

rooms, the Experimental Studies Group room and recreational areas. Once you are on it, you go through a sign-on procedure similar to JHU's JHED login page, except that you can optionally register a computer as a guest for thirty days' use each year."

On the surface of things, security may not appear to be much of a problem to most of us. But a "trained techie" can siphon the packets of data being transmitted and it is this fact that makes wireless internet here insecure.

For example, someone could find out your email address and password and could make you a potential candidate for identity theft.

However, all does not seem to be going wrong with the wireless network here.

For instance, probably the most important reason that students choose to connect to the wireless LAN is that connectivity is provided free of cost.

Additionally, security is not a major issue for most of us who just want to surf the internet while we take study breaks in the library or

the increased use that would occur.

I would like to add at this point that some of the above statements may be "blind" considering the fact that they neglect reality: legal accountability, funding justification, support contracts, hardware warranties and RMA procedures, not to mention purchasing rules that the University has. Given these factors, they're doing OK.

We can criticize their product all we want, but we need to see their perspective: they are faced with problems that are completely non-technical that hinder their freedom.

In summing up the state of wireless at Hopkins, undergraduate Cassius Sims states that "overall, the wireless is great considering the price: free."

He said "I can get it in all of the lecture halls on campus and most places that I try (I am in the basement of Garland at the moment). There are obviously improvements to be made, but that's always the case with computers and related devices."

Bush admin guts the clean air laws

The cover story published in the *New York Times Magazine*, by Bruce Barcott, outlines the reprehensible manner in which the Bush Administration has undermined long-established environmental priorities and policies.

By effectively gutting New Source Review (NSR), the foundational element of air pollution controls, the administration has undermined what would have been the most drastic reductions in air pollution emissions.

After the Clean Air Act of 1970 was first implemented, the electric industry did not come close to the emissions standards set.

Instead of building new, cleaner plants which would have been subject to the regulations, companies chose simply to make minor changes to their older, dirtier plants, to which the rules did not apply.

So in a 1977 update to the Clean Air Act, Congress implemented NSR, which required that any substantial renovations to the facilities would require the companies to install the best available pollution reducing technologies.

Why is this all such a concern? Power plants burn coal, gas, and oil and emit harmful chemicals such as nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur oxides (SOx), and mercury.

These chemicals are known to cause ground-level ozone, acid rain and brain damage in children.

During the Clinton Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decided to review the energy industries' updates to their facilities to see if the NSR requirements were being met.

They found that there was a three decade long history of non-compliance and outright deceit by plant

operators. Over two years, they gathered substantial data which could be used to convict the major violators, and in 1999 took them to court.

At this point, many of these companies decided to go to the negotiating table with the EPA, but as a backup plan they began contributing money to George W's election campaign. And once he was elected they didn't let him forget. Well guess what, it worked.

Right as some of these lawsuits were about to be won by the EPA, and many other companies were about to negotiate a deal, the Bush Administration undermined the NSR laws.

After trying to change the rules through both the justice department and the congressional route (and being denied), the administration decided to make the changes internally.

Former lobbyists of the energy industry, who had long advocated eliminating NSR, were now working at the EPA, charged with 'enforcing' these regulations.

These former lobbyists eviscerated NSR, creating a loophole which will allow companies to alter their plants in almost any way they wish without ever installing new pollution controls.

This effectively killed the lawsuits and the negotiations the EPA had been making. Had the EPA been successful, yearly pollution levels would have been cut by 50 percent!

After almost 30 years of waiting, and just when progress was about to be made, the White House was able to reverse yet another of America's environmental laws.

For an administration so concerned about the safety of the people they serve, they have hardly made America safer. I encourage you to read the article by Barcott at <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/04/04/magazine/04BUSH.html>.

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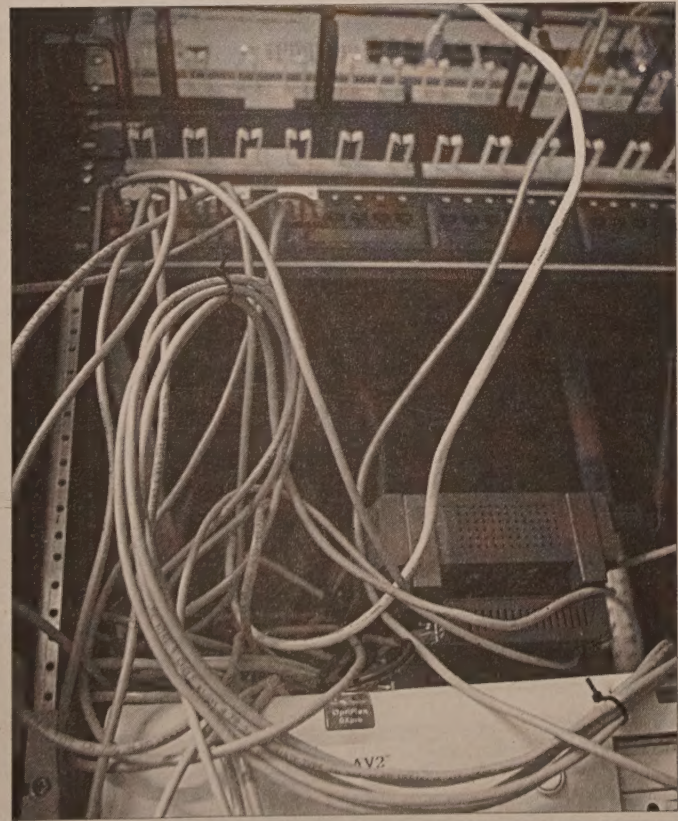
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SPORTS

SENIOR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
CRAIG CETTA, BASEBALL



BY BROOKE NEVILS
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Craig Cetta has worried more about this article than the *News-Letter* staff.

"I was sitting on the bench today during the eighth inning," Cetta said, referring to the Blue Jays' 13-3 win over Washington College on Tuesday, "and I was telling the other guys that I'm Senior Athlete of the Week, and that I decided I was going to make it really funny."

For a guy with a sense of humor like Cetta's, this shouldn't have been a difficult task.

"The other players are putting a

lot of pressure on me," he said.

By now, Cetta should be accustomed to pressure. On March 29, the Blue Jays were ranked first nationally in an ABCA/Collegiate Baseball poll. The number one ranking was the first in school history for the baseball team. They are the only team at Hopkins other than men's lacrosse to be ranked first in their sport.

Tuesday's win over Washington brought the Jays' winning streak to 21—a school record. They are now 34-1 in their last 35 regular season games.

"I don't think about the streak at all," says Cetta. "It's not even in the back of my head. I think you have to be ready for each game, and you don't want to put any extra pressure on yourself by saying you have to keep the streak going. You've just got to play to your ability."

According to Head Coach Bob Babb, Cetta's abilities have greatly improved since his freshman year.

"Craig has increased his strength since coming to JHU and has become a much smarter player," said Babb. "He's a better baserunner and is more

selective at the plate."

"Playing for Coach Babb, you learn a lot about baseball," said Cetta. "He gets into the finer details of the game, and I think I've picked up on that. I focus on that more now as a senior than I did as a freshman."

Then, I thought that baseball was just swing, hit and then see what happens."

Cetta, an economics major, started his third straight season in left field this year after finishing last season with a .333 average and Second Team All-Centennial honors. A power hitter, Cetta's strengths include clutch hitting, speed and accuracy with his throws, range in the outfield and a talent for stealing bases.

While his four years with the team have made him a smarter player, he's a much stronger player as well.

"My motto was, 'you've gotta eat big to get big,'" Cetta said. "I came into college weighing 175 pounds, and now I'm 205. The all-you-can-eat at Terrace helped. I lifted too."

Now that the off-season is over, Cetta's new goal is the College World Series.

"Obviously, I'm a little disappointed in my season so far because I'm not hitting so well. I guess I want to get my batting average up a bit," Cetta admitted. "My personal

goal is to do anything to help the team get to the World Series. This year is definitely our year to win it all. Anything less would be a disappointment."

His other personal goal is to make this article as humorous as possible.

"Maybe it'd be funny if you got a freshman's opinion of me," Cetta suggested. "There's this freshman that had to room with me in Florida..."

"I have no idea why he told you to call me," said Rob Sanzillo, a catcher. "Is it for 'Hot at Hopkins'? He's the self-pro-

—HEAD COACH
BOB BABB

claimed best looking guy on the baseball team. He made a list of all the guys on the team that he thinks are the best looking, and put himself at the top."

Sanzillo has apparently emerged from his experience as Cetta's Spring Break roommate without any lasting animosity.

"He made me sleep on the floor," Sanzillo said. "He ended every night with 'storytime,' but he wouldn't let either me or the other guy in the room tell stories—only his stories. Anyway, he's an outgoing, great guy. He says random things to lighten the mood. I don't think he could make somebody not feel at home if he wanted to."

Craig has increased his strength...and has become a much smarter player. He's a better baserunner and is more selective at the plate.

Tennis prepares for away games

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

match and was forced to forfeit. However, Hopkins would not relinquish a match after that, winning the next six consecutive matches.

"I think we're on our way to more wins now," said Roch.

The matches scheduled for last Saturday and Sunday were postponed. All three of these matches have been rescheduled for two weeks from now. Since the conference tournament begins on Friday, April 23, this timing makes the most sense.

"We haven't played in a match in over a week and we missed a couple of practices because of the rain," said Loeys. "We suddenly went from playing together constantly to not seeing each other at all."

Still, Seidman sees an upside to the delays. "Swarthmore and Muhlenberg are two of the best teams in our conference. I am not happy that the matches were postponed, but it will be nice to have more time to practice before facing these teams."

Loeys also hopes the team will be refreshed and well rested as it prepares to play four matches in five days next week. The women's team will spend the majority of the week on the road, traveling to Ursinus College on Monday, McDaniel on Tuesday and Dickinson on Thursday. On Friday, the Blue Jays will wrap up a grueling week with another trip to Pennsylvania to battle Bryn Mawr College.

"It's going to be a hard week, but hopefully we can learn from each match in order to get better for the next one," said Seidman.

The men's tennis team only lost one match due to the inclement weather, so their schedule in the coming weeks will not be quite as rough. But things will still get a little hectic.

However, Kelly-Sell trusts that everyone on the team will manage. "Everyone on the team has

done it before, so I'm sure my teammates will take care of their business and come out here ready to play tennis," he said.

Roch agrees that the team will handle the intensity well, and feels that the rain-out could not have come at a better time since the team has been struggling early in the season and needed the extra practice.

"Some of our players were hurt before, but everyone is healthy now. Also, we are working extra hard because we are motivated to get that first win," said Roch.

The Blue Jays have been plagued by injuries and came into their first few matches cold, facing teams that already had several matches under their belts.

"We played three really good teams right off the bat," said Kelly-Sell. "They had played five or six teams before us, so they were match-ready."

Despite its early struggles, the team believes that it can turn things around from here. Roch believes the team has been improving at every match and was encouraged by the performance against Goucher—a traditionally strong foe.

Also, the back half of the team has fared well thus far this season. Freshmen Nick Kennedy and Andrew Chang have picked up several wins in the fifth and sixth singles slots.

Next Monday, the men's team will face Ursinus in Collegeville, Penn. in a dual meet with the women's team. On Tuesday, they will participate in another dual meet at McDaniel.

"We are confident that we can win these matches, but we are definitely not overlooking them," said Kelly-Sell of the upcoming matches.

"They are teams we can beat," added Roch. "But we have to play our best. Once we start winning and get some confidence, though, things will turn around completely."

Once we start winning and get some confidence, though, things will turn around.

—SENIOR CAPTAIN
GRANT ROCH

Jays wrap up a successful road trip

Hopkins cruises to double-digit victories over Elizabethtown and Washington College



The Blue Jays extended their 21-game winning streak, a school record, with decisive wins over Elizabethtown and Washington College. Hopkins hosts three games this week, including a doubleheader against F&M.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
got the start and picked up his second win of the season after allowing two runs (one earned) on six hits while striking out four in five innings of work. Freshman Ben Raymond allowed one run in two innings of relief, while junior Jason Hochfelder pitched the eighth inning and freshman Ryan Lanpher closed the game out, allowing only one run.

"The greatest thing about [our pitching staff] is the depth," said Casale. "If one guy is not on his game, the other guys pick their game up in relief."

On Elizabethtown's side, Mike Nocar took the loss, as he gave up four runs and four hits in two innings pitched, despite recording six strikeouts.

After demolishing Elizabethtown, Hopkins had no time to rest, as they traveled to Washington College for a Centennial Conference game. The result was similar, however, as Hopkins dominated all facets of the game and came away with a 13-3 victory.

Junior Mike Spiciarich went three for three with two runs scored and two RBI, as Hopkins capitalized on a six-run second inning to put Washington College away early in this contest.

Senior catcher Doug Hitchner drove home Cetta and Casale hit another triple to bring home two runs to quickly make it 3-0.

Spiciarich and sophomore Corey Gleason both added RBI singles and Spiciarich later scored on a sacrifice fly by Nigro to give the Blue Jays a total of six runs in the inning in the rally.

Senior Jeremy Brown pitched the first five innings for the Blue Jays to

pick up the easy win. He allowed just three hits and struck out five to improve to 5-0 on the year, further establishing himself as the Blue Jay ace.

After the Blue Jays took a 10-0 lead in the top of the seventh frame, Washington College managed to

put together a small offensive outburst with a three-run eighth inning. Stafford, who had been perfect in relief thus far this season, yielded the three runs.

The Blue Jays responded immediately with a three-run ninth inning, eventually winning easily, 13-3.

One reason the Blue Jays have been so successful this season is their senior leadership and chemistry.

"Basically, all 14 seniors are good friends," said Hitchner. "I'm real happy it worked out that way. Of course, it also helps when your 21-0."

"We work out together, hang out together; there aren't any power struggles," said Casale.

After four straight road trips, the Blue Jays will be making a home stand for their next five games, playing three straight starting this Thursday, April 8. These games include No. 28 Mary Washington and a double-header against Franklin & Marshall.

"Mary Washington is ranked, so obviously we're psyched up for that one," said senior Bryan Eberle. "But the other games are division opponents, so all the games are pretty important."

"[I'm] definitely looking forward to the Franklin & Marshall double-header," said Hitchner. "They [defeated] us last year and we are looking to beat them up pretty bad this time around."

ABCA DIVISION III
BASEBALL POLL

WEEK OF MARCH 29

1. Johns Hopkins
2. Emory
3. Carthage
4. Wis-Oshkosh
5. Trinity (Texas)
6. Eastern Connecticut St.
7. Wooster (Ohio)
8. Rowan (N.J.)
- 9t. Virginia Wesleyan
- Mississippi College
- 11t. St. Thomas (Minn)
- Marietta (Ohio)
13. Cortland (N.Y.) State
14. Trinity (Conn.)
15. Chapman (Calif.)
16. Lynchburg (Va.)
17. Augustana (Ill.)
18. Ithaca (N.Y.)
19. Denison (Ohio)
20. New Jersey

Crew's Occoquan sprints cut short by weather

BY AARON GLASER
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

There are only two words to describe the weather conditions at the Occoquan Sprints on Sunday: clear and cold. According to sophomore Garrett Butler, "it was freezing and [the] water conditions were torrid" in Lorton, Va. at the Occoquan River. Forced to compete with constant 25 mile-per-hour winds and gusts reaching up to 40 miles per hour, the rowers of the Johns Hopkins men's and women's crew teams made do and raced on shortened courses ranging from 800 to 1250 meters. Teams from George Washington, Pittsburgh, Mary Washington, Richmond, Penn State, Virginia Tech, UMBC, Maryland, George Mason, Stockton, Loyola and Susquehanna all competed in the competition.

The Jays came in fifth in the men's novice eight and the men's Varsity four race one, in second in the men's

Varsity four race two, while the women's team finished in first and second in the women's varsity four race one and the women's varsity four race two, respectively.

The rest of the races on the Occoquan River were cancelled due to the inclement weather, though Hopkins was performing admirably and earning respectable showings. The men's novice eight in composed of sophomore David Chou, freshman Tim Park, freshman Erik Anderson, sophomore Sean Cheng, freshman Steven Flores, freshman Teddy Drivas, freshman Lukasz Bugai, sophomore Matt Hart and senior Mike Vu put up a fifth place showing. The Blue Jays reached the same end in the men's four race, in which junior Dave Small, freshman Greg Kearns, freshmen Wesley Fredericks, sophomore Garret Butler and freshman Rachel Rascoe cruised into fifth place as well.

Things picked up for the men's

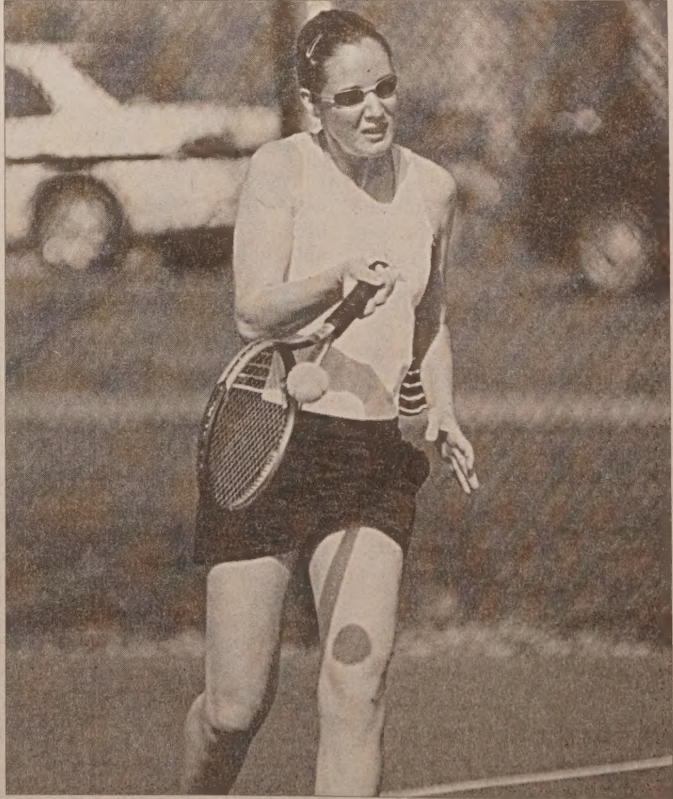
team in the third race in which they competed, with the Hopkins B lightweight team of senior Mike Walsh, sophomore Pete Ryan, senior Pat Mason, senior Derek Davies and senior Terry Dean finishing just after Virginia Tech for a third place finish. But the zenith of the Hopkins' crew performances on the day came from the women's teams, in which the women's Varsity four race two—which featured the Hopkins B team of sophomore Payal Ghosh, freshman Theresa Keating, sophomore Renee Equis, sophomore Elie Gilfort and junior Ariel Lyons-Warren—just barely lost to Stockton College. Not to be outdone, the Hopkins Varsity race one took to the Occoquan and never looked back, with freshman Laura Demare, senior Allison McNickle, junior Caroline Hookway, senior Caitlin Hurst and freshman coxswain Virginia Pearson blowing past the competition and capturing a first-place finish on the day. They nar-

rowly edged out second-place Catholic University.

"All of the four's races were held in heat-style, where there is no final race at the end featuring winners from the heats, thus it is difficult to really say how we stacked up against the competition since we cannot compare times from different heats," said Hopkins senior captain Terry Dean.

However, Dean did point out that there were some highlights for Hopkins on the day, giving his female counterparts credit. "The women, however, did win one of their heats, and were the only Hopkins' boat of the day to win their heat," said Dean.

Despite constant high wind and a shortened course, Hopkins performed well under the circumstances at the Occoquan straits. The crew teams will look forward to more competition and better water conditions when they continue their season on Saturday, April 17, at the Knecht Cup in Camden, NJ.



The women's tennis team continues to perform well in the Centennial Conference, improving to 3-1 with a win Wednesday over Gettysburg.

SPORTS

Jays prepare for No. 7 ranked Terps



DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER
Sophomore midfielder Kelley Putnam streaks past a defender in the Jays' momentous conference victory over Vanderbilt at Homewood Field.

Continued from Page A12

that included five lead changes, Hopkins knew that the best way to protect their lead was to hold onto the ball. The Jays entered into a stall and played keep away with the ball against Vanderbilt. The Commodores tried frantically to regain possession of the ball and with 43 seconds remaining, they finally did after knocking down a Hopkins' pass and scooping up the groundball.

With Vanderbilt in possession of the ball in the closing minutes, Hopkins saw the need to get the ball back quickly. Before the Commodores could advance the ball past the restraining line Hopkins quickly forced another loose ball opportunity off a check. As three Vanderbilt players converged on the loose ball, Wittelsberger raced through them, secured the groundball and ran to the Hopkins' zone. The Jays ran out the remaining seconds to secure the win.

"I stayed on the outside [after the turnover] and drifted over towards the play," said Wittelsberger. "I saw the ball pop up in the air and I just grabbed it and kept running."

As she ran with the ball, Hopkins ran away with the biggest win in the

program's history.

"The best win ever...one of the most exciting," said head coach Janine Tucker of the game. "It puts us as the team to beat [in the ALC]."

The game opened with Vanderbilt jumping out to a 2-0 lead. The Commodores also threatened to score a third, as they held the ball in the Hopkins' defensive end. That's when the Jays' defense clamped down and caused a turnover. Senior midfielder Heidi Pearce corralled the loose ball and raced end-to-end through the entire Vanderbilt defense before blasting a shot into the back of the Commodore net, finally putting Hopkins on the board with just over 20 minutes remaining in the first half. Thirty-two seconds later, freshman attacker Mary Key snuck one past the Vanderbilt goalie off a free position shot, evening the score 2-2. Minutes later, Pearce struck again and the Jays gained a 3-2 advantage.

Vanderbilt responded to the Jays' scores by notching two of its own, Hopkins answered with a goal by freshman midfielder Steph Janice to knot the score at 4-4. Vanderbilt scored three more times before the half, while the Blue Jays got one more

2004 LACROSSE RANKINGS			
GEICO STX/USILA Rankings		IWLCA RANKINGS	
1.	Maryland	1.	Princeton
2.	Johns Hopkins	2.	Georgetown
3.	Syracuse	3.	Notre Dame
4.	Navy	4.	Duke
5.	North Carolina	5.	Loyola
6.	Princeton	6.	Virginia
7.	Georgetown	7.	Maryland
8.	Ohio State	8.	James Madison
9.	Army	9.	Johns Hopkins
10.	Brown	10.	Vanderbilt
11.	Deleware	11.	Syracuse
12.	Towson	12.	Dartmouth
13.	Duke	13.	Northwestern
14.	Rutgers	14.	Yale
15.	Virginia	15.	North Carolina
16.	Cornell	16.	William & Mary
17.	Denver	17.	Towson
18.	Notre Dame	18.	Penn State
19.	UMBC	19.	Stanford
20.	Loyola	20.	George Mason

tally from Pearce and entered the half trailing the Commodores 7-5.

Hopkins wasted little time working the ball into the Vanderbilt zone to start the second half. However, a Hopkins' miscue led to the Commodores' goalkeeper taking possession of the ball behind the goal. Key was quick to apply pressure to the goalie, causing a turnover.

"We all marked up and I had the goalie, when I applied pressure she got nervous and dropped the ball," said Key. "I got the ground ball and saw Marlena [Wittelsberger] in front of a wide open net."

Key fed Wittelsberger, who put the ball into the Vanderbilt net and swung the momentum in favor of the Jays.

"It gave us a spark," said Tucker. "We had just made a mistake, but we got it back."

Sophomore midfielder Kelley Putnam then scored for the Jays, evening the score at 7-7. But the Commodores quickly answered back, notching two goals to retake the lead. Less than one minute later, junior attacker Erin Riordan and sophomore attacker Meagan Voight each scored in a span of 54 seconds to tie the game once again.

Another Vanderbilt goal gave them a 10-9 lead. But this was the last time the Commodores would be in front.

Hopkins got three consecutive goals from Riordan, Key, and Pearce and opened up a 12-10 lead. The Commodores managed to tack on one more goal, but the Blue Jays' keep away strategy in the last five minutes proved effective.

Now 10-0, the Jays remain in first place in the ALC with a 4-0 record conference mark. Hopkins has two conference games remaining. The

Two track records set at College Park

BY GREG BORENSTEIN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Johns Hopkins track & field team knew it was to face stiff competition at the Terrapin Invitational this past weekend; the Blue Jays were the only Division III school to compete at the University of Maryland last Saturday.

This meet did not feature any teams in the Centennial Conference, nor did the results have any impact on the regular season standings. It was simply an opportunity for Hopkins' individual performers to push themselves against D-I competitors.

Of the 19 male and female teams who competed, the Hopkins women finished 12th while the men came in 15th.

"We were looking to hold our own in that meet, and that is definitely what we did," said Head Coach Bobby Van Allen.

There were two notable performances for the Jays. Meghan Carr, a senior pole vaulter who missed the school record by one inch a week ago, this time broke the record by an inch. She cleared 9'6". This put Carr in sixth place in a field of 20 other competitors.

Senior co-Captain Anna Stirgwalt shattered her own school record in the steeplechase this week by posting a time of 12:28:31 while finishing in seventh place. She took off 33 seconds from last week's school record and again ran a personal best time.

"The competition was great and our team rose to the occasion," said Stirgwalt. "Seeing performances from this weekend we're confident about the rest of the season. The weather was cold, so I think I can run faster but I'm still working on the record, I'm not there yet but by conferences I plan to be."

Freshman Jason Dubyoski broke the freshman 400-meter hurdle record with a 57.96. This was also good for fourth on Hopkins' all-time list, despite the fact that he knocked over the last hurdle.

"It was my first time running the event, so I went out conservatively,"

said Dubyoski. "I managed to have a decent race considering that my steps for the hurdles were off the whole way." He finished ninth overall and is looking to place at Conferences.

The 4x400-meter relay team posted its best time of the year, clocking in at 3:29:94. The 4x100-meter relay team also posted its top time of the year, with a 45:53. On the women's side, the 4x100-meter squad finished in 52.34, which is second all-time for the event in school history.

Sophomore Ilolochika Emuh finished with a time of 16.27 in the women's 100-meter hurdles, which Van Allen identifies as the team's strongest event. In fact, he thinks the Jays have a chance to qualify a competitor for Nationals in the 100-meter hurdles. In that same event Sophomore Nancy Yu finished with a 17.99. The two finished 13th and 17th, respectively, in the event.

The men's team defeated several Division I colleges, including George Mason University, Coppin State College and the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). The women placed ahead of George Washington University, Butler University and UMBC.

As for the top finishers, the Maryland women dominated with a score of 184.50. The Blue Hens of Delaware came in a distant second with 84.50, with James Madison garnering 68 points and a third-place overall finish. On the men's side, The University of Rhode Island won with a score of 118, edging out second-place Rutgers University, which totaled 116. Maryland finished third with a score of 74 points.

"[Saturday] lots of guys put out some great times," said sophomore Andrew Bauerschmidt. "Considering there are only four weeks till conferences I feel most people are where they want to be." Bauerschmidt had a four second personal best time in the 1500-meter run, 4:16.

Next up for Hopkins is the Widener invitational the weekend of April 17. The Centennial Conference Championships will be held the first weekend in May.

Hopkins to battle Blue Devils

Continued from Page A12

said Boland. "We were planning on scoring then to win the game and avoid overtime, which is what we did. I dodged from the wing, drew a double team and saw Pete [LeSueur] to my left. All I had to do was put it on his stick and he made a great shot."

The extra-man offense took advantage of North Carolina's mistakes, converting on three man-up opportunities.

Hopkins utilized a balanced offensive attack, with goals coming from six different players. Ford led the offense with three scores, while Byrne and junior midfielder Kyle Harrison had two apiece. The strong performance was an important one for Ford, who bounced back from being held scoreless for the first time this season in the loss to the Cavaliers. Junior midfielder Matt Rewkowski had a goal and three assists, and LeSueur had two assists in addition to his game-winning goal. Barrie also had a goal and an assist.

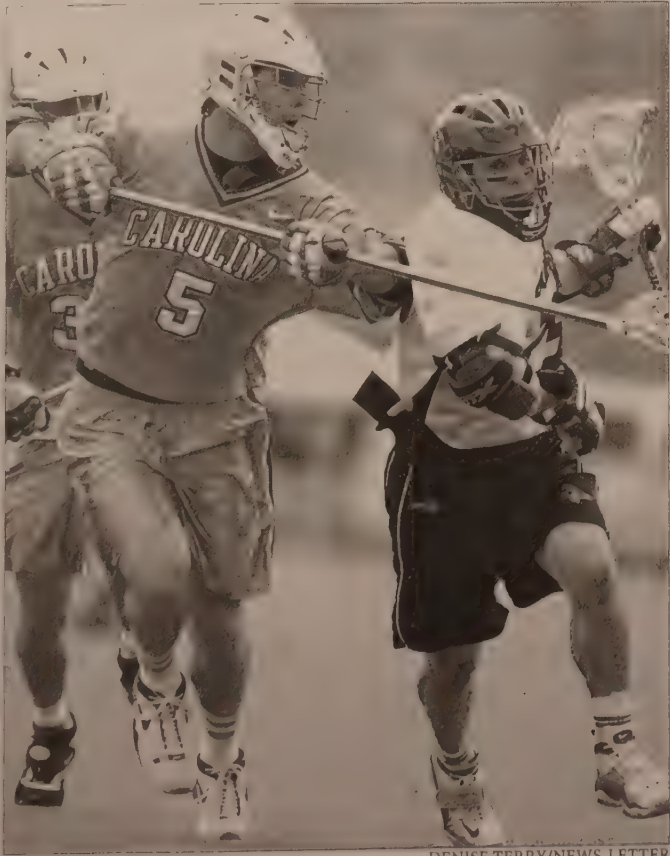
"UNC is definitely a quality opponent, evidenced by the fact that the last three years have been decided by a single goal," LeSueur said. "I don't think we played our best game, but we did expect it to be a close contest."

The Tar Heels were held to just nine goals on the day. That extends

Hopkins' streak to 17 games without allowing an opponent to score 10 or more goals. The last time an opponent scored 10 or more against the Blue Jays was the last time North Carolina played Hopkins over a year ago. UNC scored 10 goals in an 11-10 overtime loss to the Blue Jays on March 29, 2003.

The Blue Jays travel to Durham, North Carolina, this weekend to face No. 13 Duke. Rewkowski, who trans-

ferred to Hopkins from Duke in the offseason, will be returning to play against his old team for the first time. After Duke, the Blue Jays return home to defend their 24-game Homewood Field winning streak against number one Maryland on April 17. It will be the 100th meeting between these two lacrosse powerhouses, and seats are already selling out, so get your tickets now.



DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER
Junior attackman Peter LeSueur fends off a check by Mike Pessagno in Saturday's 10-9 win. LeSueur scored the game winner against UNC.



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SATURDAY

Baseball vs. F&M 1:00 p.m.
W. Lac vs. Maryland 1:00 p.m.

DO YOU KNOW?

The University of Connecticut became the first Division I basketball school to win the men's and women's National Championship in the same season this year. This year's title marks the third straight for the Lady Huskies.

Hopkins gets back on track vs. UNC

LeSueur's goal late in the fourth secures 11-10 victory; Hopkins still ranked No. 2 in poll



DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER

Junior midfielder and faceoff specialist Kyle Harrison winds up for a shot that resulted in one of his two goals against the Tar Heels last Saturday. Hopkins will travel to Durham this weekend to take on No. 13 Duke.

BY NATHAN BATES

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

After cruising to victory over lacrosse powerhouses Princeton and Syracuse, the Johns Hopkins men's lacrosse team has played tough from start to finish the past two weeks. After a devastating 9-8 loss to the University of Virginia two weeks ago, Hopkins found itself in another wire-to-wire battle against the University of North Carolina this past Saturday.

Fortunately for the Blue Jays, they came out on the winning end of this 10-9 nailbiter, improving to 6-1 and maintaining their No. 2 national ranking in the process.

But it wasn't easy.

The Tar Heels controlled the ball for most of the game. Carolina senior Kevin Frew won 13 of his 23 faceoffs against the Blue Jays, and the Tar Heels controlled the offense, outshooting the Blue Jays 45-37. Hopkins has been less dominant in

the faceoff circle as of late, after dominating Hofstra and Syracuse in back-to-back games.

"We knew going in it was going to be a good game," said Hopkins senior midfielder Kevin Boland. "Carolina is a talented team with a good coach. They had a good game plan and a talented faceoff guy. We were fortunate to come away with a win."

As the clock continued to tick down during this seesaw contest,

Hopkins junior attackman Pete LeSueur scored the decisive goal off a feed from Boland. With just under a minute remaining, LeSueur whipped a shot past the ankles of UNC goalie Paul Spellman (10 saves) that snuck just inside the left pipe. The goal, which was LeSueur's sixth of the season, secured the win for Hopkins and keeps the Jays just one step behind top-ranked Maryland in the polls.

"When I saw Kevin had the ball with time winding down, I felt confident we would get a good shot off," said LeSueur. "Kevin had two guys on him and I was open; he passed to me and it was a golden opportunity. It's a situation we have practiced before. We were confident we could score in a limited time. It's always better to win in regulation."

While Hopkins was able to get on the board first with a pair of goals by freshman attackman Jake Byrne and junior attackman Kyle Barrie, it was an uphill battle after that. North Carolina tied the score at 2-2 by the end of the first quarter, and the two teams traded goals for the second and third frames. Hopkins tied the score four times throughout the game but didn't get back on top until senior attackman Conor Ford's goal in the fourth quarter, his third of the game.

That lead lasted five minutes, until North Carolina attackman Jed Prossner scored an unassisted goal with about five minutes to go in the game.

With the Tar Heels' offense controlling the tempo, the Blue Jays' defense was under a lot of pressure to keep Hopkins in the game. Sophomore goalie Scott Smith registered a career high 15 saves for Hopkins, including quick back-to-back stops to keep Carolina from regaining the lead with less than two and a half minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

"Scott [Smith] made some saves he shouldn't have [been able to make]," said Boland. "He bailed us out, especially in the second half, and gave us a chance to win the game."

Defense kept Hopkins in the game, but you can't win if you don't score. After Smith's saves, the Blue Jays cleared the ball to Boland on the wing.

"I felt like I had to make a score when we had that last possession,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Jays upset ALC foe Vanderbilt, 12-11



DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER

Freshman midfielder Steph Janie tries to fight through a check in the Blue Jays' win over Vanderbilt this past Sunday on Homewood Field.

BY ALLAN SOTO

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Johns Hopkins women's lacrosse team has been nothing less than perfect all season. However, being one of only three undefeated teams left in Division I has not earned the Jays much respect. Hopkins has failed to garner a ranking higher than 12th in any poll prior to this. The major criticisms of the 2004 Jays thus far had been their weak strength of schedule and the lingering question of whether or not they can win the big game.

The Blue Jays silenced all the critics and erased all doubts with a critical 12-11 victory over ninth-ranked Vanderbilt this past Sunday on Homewood Field.

The win helped vault the Jays to ninth in the latest IWLCA poll — the highest ranking ever for the program at the D-I level. Despite the achievement, some Jays realize this is no time to become complacent.

"It feels really good [to be ranked ninth] because one of our team goals was to be ranked in the top ten," said sophomore defender Ashley Schwarzmann. "However, even though being ninth is a great accomplishment, our team has enough talent to get even further. I don't think we're going to be satisfied, and we're going to keep working just as hard as we have been all season."

Coming into the Vanderbilt game,

many of the Jays understood the significance of the match up. Hopkins had never defeated a top ten opponent and Vanderbilt is a fellow American Lacrosse Conference member. A loss to the Commodores would have dropped the Jays to second in the ALC standings and severely damaged their chances for a conference title.

"We knew it was a big game so we all took it very seriously," said senior attacker Marlena Wittelsberger. "We made sure to take care of all the little things."

With just under six minutes to go in the game, the Jays held a 12-11 advantage and controlled the ball in their offensive end. In a seesaw game

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Baseball stays atop rankings this week

Hopkins extends winning streak to 21 straight games; homestand to start against MWC

BY BRYAN CURTIN

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The red-hot Johns Hopkins baseball team continued its winning ways this week, crushing Elizabethtown 14-4 on Monday and defeating Wash-

ington College 13-3 the following day. The Blue Jays extended their amazing winning streak and improved their record to 21-0.

In the win over Elizabethtown, senior shortstop Tim Casale and junior designated hitter Eric Nigro were the

standout players. Casale went three for four with a triple and two RBI.

Nigro was two for three with three runs scored and three RBI. The two combined for Hopkins' initial spurt of offense, as Casale hit a single, recorded two stolen bases, and scored a

run when Nigro hit a two-run homer to open the game up.

But Casale was just getting started. In the second inning, he drove junior right fielder Dave Montegari and senior first baseman Sven Stafford home with a triple to give the Blue Jays a four-run advantage.

"Everything was right there in the strike zone," said Casale. "Right now, I have tremendous confidence in my personal abilities."

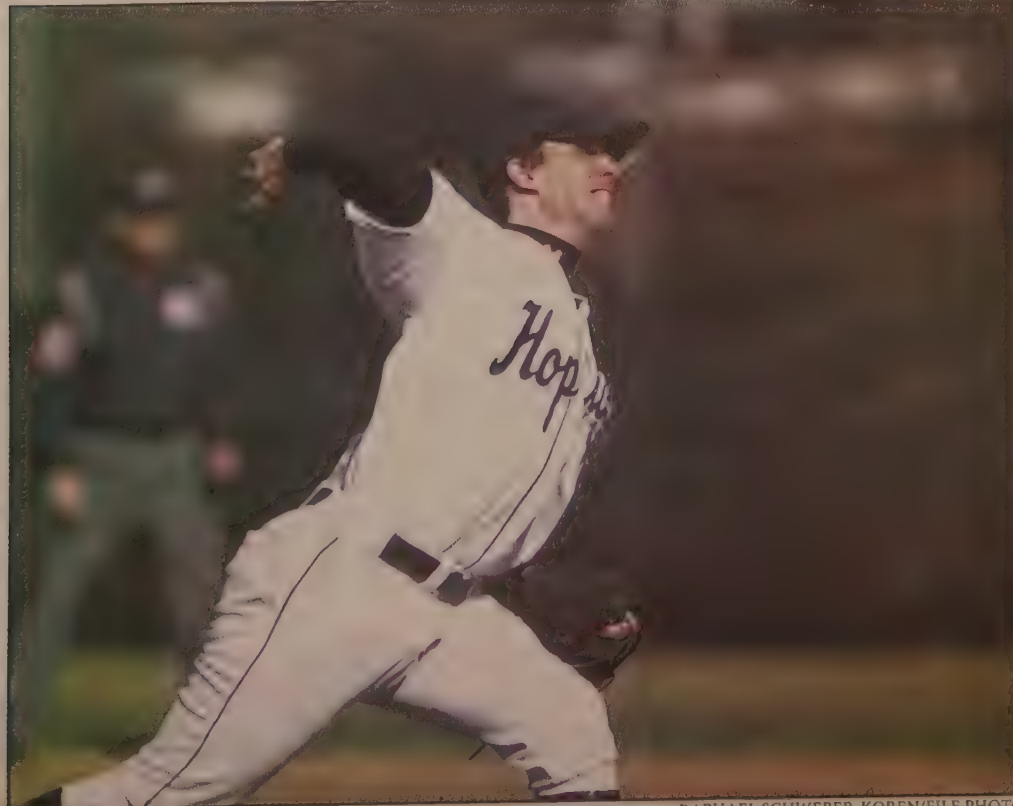
It was smooth sailing for the Blue Jays from that point on, as they extended their lead to seven runs in the third when junior centerfielder Paul Winterling led off the third with a single to right field. After stealing second base, he advanced to third on a sacrifice fly by Nigro and eventually scored on a throwing error by Elizabethtown rightfielder Dean Whetham. Sophomore third baseman Gary Rosenberg then walked and scored on a two-run shot by Montegari.

The game further went out of Elizabethtown's reach in the fourth inning, when Hopkins walked one run home with senior Craig Cetta following up with a three-run double to make the score 11-0.

Elizabethtown scored one run in both the fourth and fifth innings, but never mounted a serious comeback threat. Hopkins scored two runs in the sixth, pushing the lead back to 11. Cetta also batted in freshman catcher Rob Sanzillo in the eighth inning.

Hopkins sophomore Jim Flannery

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10



RAPHAEL SCHWEBER-KOREN/FILE PHOTO

Senior pitcher Jeremy Brown improved to 5-0 on the season with a win on the road this week for the Jays.

The women's lax team has cracked the D-I top 10 for the first time ever. Check out Page A11 for the current Lacrosse Rankings.

Tennis teams regroup after postponements

BY JAMIE SPANGLER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

After having three matches postponed due to unfavorable weather conditions last weekend, the men's and women's tennis teams finally played in and won their first home meet of the year on Wednesday. The men's team won by a score of 6-1 and the women's team won 7-2 over Gettysburg College in the dual meet.

"I was just happy to have our first home match and good weather," said head coach Ben Baron. "We did pretty well."

The women's team improved to 3-2 overall and 3-1 in conference play with its commanding victory Wednesday afternoon. Although the first doubles team of senior Cara Loeys and junior Michelle Liang lost to their Gettysburg counterparts, the second and third doubles teams transferred the momentum back to the Blue Jays with decisive victories.

Freshmen Becky Busch and Priya Puri were victorious in the second

slot and freshman Meghan Hasenauer and sophomore Jill Seidman won at third. Liang then lost in a tiebreaker in the first singles match, but Hopkins took the next five matches en route to victory.

"It was nice to finally get some really nice weather and another win," said Loeys.

The men's team earned its first victory of the year, and now has a record of 1-5 overall (1-3 in the Centennial Conference). Although they were not at full strength, they had most of their regulars in the lineup. The meet did not start out on a good note for the Blue Jays, as they lost the first doubles point. However, the second and third doubles teams of senior captain Grant Roch and sophomore Michael Kelly-Sell and senior Aaron Ong and sophomore Andrew Chang won their respective contests, giving Hopkins the doubles point. In the first singles, Justin Chan struggled in his return from an injury. He cramped up during the

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10

The B Section

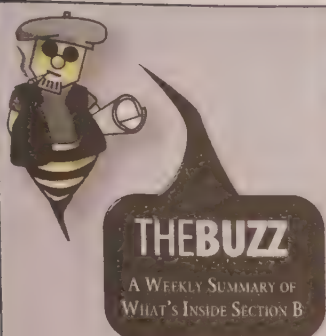
FEATURES, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE! • APRIL 8, 2004

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER

Quote
of the Week

"It makes reading
the rest of the
paper boring"

—News-Letter Advisor Tristan
Davies commenting on the April
Fools edition.



FOCUS

It's getting to be that time again...the time at the end of the semester when everyone has enough exams and papers to pull their hair out. Before you put unnecessary strain on your brain, relax with yoga, keep it healthy and follow successful stress tips from this week's Stress Focus. • B2

FEATURES

The topic of kinky bondage makes this week's sex column one you can't escape from. Also, check out the cycling club as they race to victory and see why the Comedy Factory is the place to go when you want a good, cheap laugh. • B3

Why this year's housing lottery was better than last year's and a Little Italy deli that's sure to please. • B4

A new magazine from your friends at SAIS and look at some Hopkins students who go way back. • B5

A & E

It's a good week for film buffs, as the Hopkins Film Festival rolls into town. Check out our exclusive preview of what's in store. *The Girl Next Door* should probably stick around, because we've taken a liking to her. And in case you don't have enough to read for class, you might want to pick up a copy of *Can You Keep A Secret?* Find out why. • B6

The Once Twice Festival is a little-known shebang that highlights the world's best electronic music composers and video artists, and it's stopping for a night in the Mattin Center! On the calmer side, the HSO played some sweet chamber arrangements on Sunday. Plus CD reviews of Musiq, TV On The Radio and Ben Kweller. • B7

Do you think Julia Stiles is hot enough to be a Danish princess? We didn't think so either. The latest yawn of a chick flick, *The Prince and Me*, opens up this weekend. • B8

Nascent Med wins business minor competition



Glen Quigley (Left), Guarav Gupta and George Xu developed a probe that might accurately predict premature birth.

BY MAANY PEYVAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The closer you sat to the two smart boards at the front of Hodson 213, the better dressed you were. In the first row sat a team of eight successful entrepreneurs and business executives. "Some of these people don't even rent out their time, it's so expensive," said Interim Dean of Engineering Andrew Douglass. Behind the expert panel were rows of undergraduates in suits and ties, skirts and blazers, some thumbing nervously through packets of papers, charts and graphs. And behind them were students casually dressed, some of them standing, all anxious.

"I'm always impressed by the intellectual output at this university," said Douglass in his introduction to the fifth annual business plan competition. "You all should realize how fantastically lucky you are to get feedback," he said, noting the judges. John Wierman, director of the W.P. Carey Program in Entrepreneurship and Management, then stepped up to explain the rules of the competition. 14 submitted business plans had been cut down to six, and these six plans would be presented, scrutinized and questioned. The judges would rate each plan and their results would be tabulated live in front of the

crowd. First place would be awarded \$5,000, second place \$1,000, third \$500 and a \$100 prize for each of the remaining groups.

Landmark was the first business plan presented, hoping to change the face of advertising. The company would produce and market the Landmark Kiosk, an interactive advertising kiosk that would give passersby information about retail stores, provide directions, contact info, even coupons and discounts.

The technology was based on the Hopkins i-site kiosks and could withstand vandalism and harsh weather. Fitted with wireless Internet, the kiosks could communicate in different languages and would be placed in high traffic areas, such as malls or parks. The technology would kick start in Baltimore, with the Inner Harbor as a prime location for installation.

Next up was Ergodesk, a company that would market ergonomically designed desks built for children. The desks allowed young children to sit comfortably while using computers in school and at home. The novel design included rounded corners for safety, an adjustable keyboard shelf, modular components and a caddy for a CPU.

Renal Therapeutics followed, presenting a non-invasive method for de-

tecting kidney failure of intensive care patients. Currently, blood tests are administered to detect acute renal failure, a procedure the group described as costly and inefficient. The group had designed a device that attached to the catheter of a patient and predicted renal failure by analyzing a patient's urine. The device is non-invasive and could even be manufactured with a disposable component to lower costs, the group claimed.

IPAC Incorporated hopes to improve posture. The group has designed a unit that can attach itself to any chair and announce poor posture or weight imbalances, based on a wireless transmitter in the unit. A receiver would sit atop a desk and visually signal whether a person is sitting incorrectly.

I-Cam Incorporated was a business designed to share digital video online. Companies like Snapfish.com have already made a business out of providing web space for consumers to post digital pictures, but I-Cam hopes to offer a similar service to a growing number of digital video camera owners. The site would provide space for users to upload digital video, and friends and family could access that video quickly online.

Finally, Nascent Medical Systems

took the stage. With them, they brought an electrical probe, designed to cut the detection time of premature births by days, maybe even weeks.

The probe, inserted in a pregnant mother's cervix, emits a very small electrical current. "As a woman comes closer to pregnancy," said team member Glen Quigley, "the actual tissue content of the cervix changes, there's a higher water content. If there's more water in that tissue, the electrical component will change."

By the end of the presentations, the judges had ranked their choices. Nascent won the competition, receiving only two votes that were not number one rankings. In a close race for second, Renal Therapeutics beat out IPAC Inc. followed by Landmark, I-Cam and Ergodesk.

Nascent's device was actually the culmination of a Design Team course, members Quigley, George Xu and Guarev Gupta had taken in the Biomedical Engineering (BME) Department. The course challenges students to tackle a relevant

medical problem in order to develop novel ways to improve or combat it. Ed Nissen, a physics major, became part of the group that developed the business

plan.

The challenge for Nascent's plan, Gupta said, was to present its product simply. "In the BME Department, we focus on the technical stuff. Here we kind of had to avoid the technical part of it. We met with Professor (Larry) Aronhime, and he just kept telling us to pare it down." A professor in the business minor, Aronhime met with all the finalists to work through presentations.

Quigley and Gupta both believed that their product was what set apart their business plan. "Biomedical devices have a large advantage," explained Gupta, "because the potential is so much greater. To some degree it is a lot more of a noble pursuit. This has the potential to be a real medical device, enhance and save lives. It's more attractive to an investor in that regard."

"I really think all the presentations were very well done," Quigley said. "Some of the plans might have included components that others had not, but I think people voted on the product. How well you presented, how well you thought out your idea, was important, but the big factor was, 'Would I put my money in that product?'"

Gupta, Xu, Quigley and Nissen are currently meeting to discuss the business and licensing of the probe, and whether they will actually form Nascent Medical Systems. "Right now it's yet to be decided upon," said Quigley. "We plan to be definitely working on the product. As to whether or not a company will be started, we're not sure."

The probe is currently applying to renew their patent and has a long timeline of FDA testing if it plans to hit the market.



Ed Nissen, also of Nascent Medical Technologies, presented their plan.

A Chorus Line falls out of step, despite good acting, singing



Chorus Line brings the struggles of unappreciated, frustrated Broadway chorus dancers to the stage.

BY COURTNEY RICE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

It's tragic when bad plays happen to good people. The JHU Barnstormers' spring musical production of *A Chorus Line* is the perfect case in point. Try as they may, the actors and technical crew simply could not save this production from being painfully mediocre.

It's hard to understand why *A Chorus Line*, which ran for nearly 15 years on Broadway, achieved such critical acclaim. Originally conceived, directed and choreographed by Michael Bennett, it is a meandering, plotless "staging scheme" presented without an intermission. The plot goes something like this: At an audition for an upcoming Broadway production, a director and a choreography assistant choose 17 dancers. The director tells them he is looking for a strong dancing chorus of four men and four women, and the performers, all desperate for work, are told to talk about themselves.

Admittedly, the show brings up some interesting perspectives and themes. For two hours, the audience is privy to the private struggles of chorus dancers on Broadway, an often thankless career. In their personal testimonies, the dancers discuss the difficulty of finding work,

their passion for entertainment and the stigma of being gay in the early '70s. With many of the dancers, they have spent so much of their lives becoming what directors want them to be that they have often completely lost, or perhaps escaped from, their own identities. In the ironic final number, each individual character dons a matching costume to become merely an anonymous member of an ensemble.

Given a cast of top notch dancers on a Broadway stage and perhaps an intermission to break up a rather static staging — the dancers simply stand in a line for at least half an hour while they are grilled by the director — *A Chorus Line* might be quite good. Given this particular cast of 24 and the Swirnow Theatre, it ranges from passable to disappointing.

The first problem is the arrangement of the Swirnow. This black box theater is best described as "intimate." There's room to seat between 150-200 people depending on where the crew decides to situate the risers on which the audience members sit. There is no elevated stage, and in fact the risers allow the audience to look down at the cast, who are at times only a few feet from the front row of seats.

This arrangement works well for something with a small cast, but gen-

erates claustrophobia with a full ensemble doing a kick-line right at your face. A show like this one deserves to be performed in a setting more like Shriver Hall, with a large, elevated stage.

Professional director Carrie Suhr, set designer junior Robin Ganek and the rest of the technical crew did their best to make the Swirnow compatible with the show. For the first half of the production, *The Chorus Line*'s director Zach (Thomas Meaney) sits in the audience, helping to make the play seem more like reality.

The only major set pieces are seven rotating triangular pillars arranged in a v-shape to simulate an enclosed stage. One side is paneled in mirrors, creating a practice room for the dancers; another is black, and the third is white to reflect whatever color light is used overhead. The latter two help the viewer to jump between the present and the imagined past.

The staging was rather impressive, except for a five-minute interlude at the very end, just before the show-stopping final dance number, "One." The cast needs time to change into their glitzy golden costumes, so the stage remains entirely empty. Some of the original dancers who don't

CONTINUED ON PAGE B8

STRESSFOCUS

Stress doesn't have to be stressful

BY JULIANNA FINELLI
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The stress response is a good thing. It's what enables us to respond effectively to emergencies. The racing heart and rapid breathing is your body's attempt to increase oxygen flow to vital muscles. The dry mouth is your body's diversion of fluids from nonessential locations. Even the token clammy hands are just your body's diverting blood flow away from the skin to support vital heart and muscle tissues. When faced with an emergency — an oncoming car or a mugger, for example — these physiological responses are a protective mechanism.

But if you find yourself having the same extreme response when faced with, say, a C+ on your chem exam or a call from an ex-boyfriend, the response is actually counterproductive. Not only can stress harm your performance and effectiveness in daily tasks, it can seriously affect your health as well. Chronic stress can lead to insomnia, depression, high blood pressure and even heart disease.

While stress is inevitable, its harmful effects don't have to be. By managing stress and adopting a positive attitude towards daily stresses, even the most over-worked student can learn to deal with life's curveballs — and even benefit from a healthy amount of challenge-induced stress.

The most common culprit of stress is poor time management. Putting off five papers until the week they're due or cramming for a test in the 4 a.m. splendor of the HUT is enough to get anyone's heart pumping. Mark all your assignments and tests on a calendar. Break down your assignments and studying goals into smaller, edible pieces. Then prioritize your weekly to-do list — "A" for items you must do, "B" for those you should do, and "C" for the things you would like to accomplish but can hold off until next week.

Just make sure you schedule in some time for yourself. Procrastina-

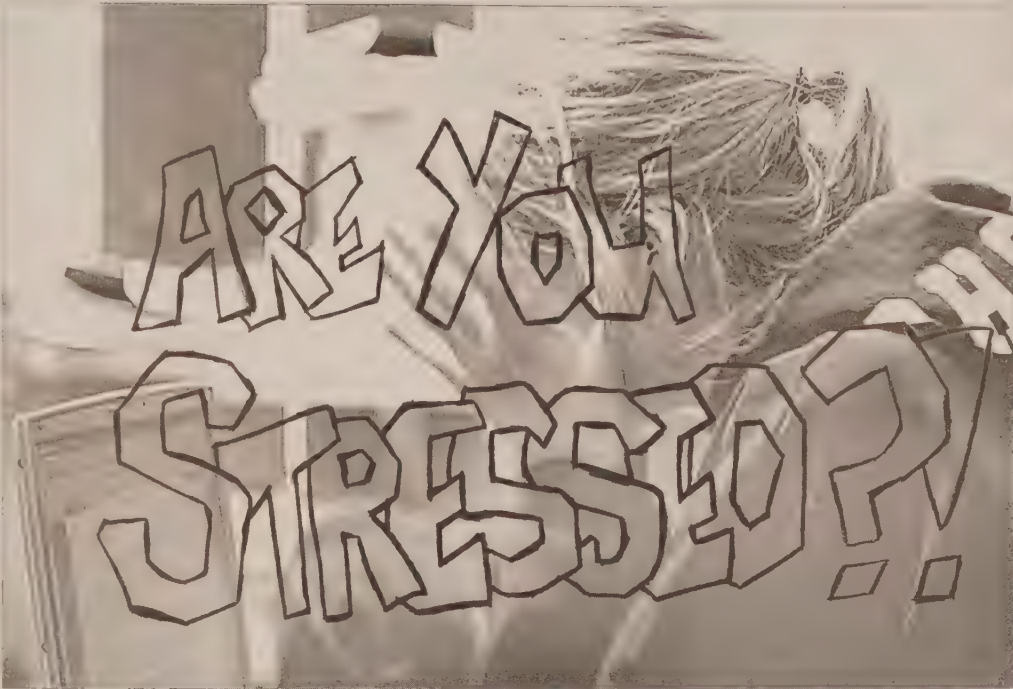
tion isn't such a bad thing if you plan it (forgive the contradiction). Even a mere 15 minutes of relaxing, napping or listening to music can do wonders for your stress level. Don't let your over-ambitious ego schedule Friday and Saturday nights for schoolwork — you will probably end up wasting the time feeling sorry for yourself anyway.

Although most over-stressed students reach for the late-night cup of coffee, studies show that caffeine actually contributes to stress. If your diet consists of coffee and cigarettes during midterm week, try opting for an actual meal instead. Stress combined with poor diet is a recipe for disaster — it's no coincidence that so many students get sick around exam time. All the adrenaline flowing through your system during that orgo test puts a stress on your adrenal glands, which require important nutrients like vitamin C, vitamin B5 and magnesium to function properly. Be sure to replace them with broccoli, whole grains and dark leafy vegetables. Protein and complex carbohydrates are a must, as well.

While some are unavoidable, most of us allow unnecessary stressors to creep into our lives. Forget about next month's dentist appointment. Don't get angry at that guy who cut you off in traffic. Let go of the guilt you feel about missing that one class. Unnecessary anxiety puts undue strain on your body as well as your brain.

Eight hours a night might be over-ambitious, but sleep is one of your best defenses against the effects of stress. Pulling all-nighters will throw off your sleep cycle, as will sleeping until 2 p.m. on weekends. Try to go to sleep at a reasonable and consistent hour every night, and avoid caffeine and other stimulants before bed.

If your stress level is becoming unmanageable, or if you need some extra help de-stressing and managing your time, talk to a professional at the Health and Wellness Center or the Counseling Center.



— Cartoons by Will Parschalk, word graphics by Megan Waitkoff

RELAX

Harvard cardiologist Dr. Herbert Benson devised this well-known and simple technique, "The Relaxation Response."

1. Pick a focus word, short phrase or prayer that is firmly rooted in your belief system.
2. Sit quietly in a comfortable position.
3. Close your eyes.
4. Relax your muscles, progressing from your feet to your calves, thighs, abdomen, shoulders, head and neck.
5. Breathe slowly and naturally, and as you do, say your focus word, sound, phrase or prayer silently to yourself as you exhale.
6. Assume a passive attitude. Don't worry about how well you are doing. When other thoughts come to your mind, simply say to yourself, "Oh, well," and gently return to your repetition.
7. Continue for 10-20 minutes.
8. Continue sitting quietly for a minute or so, allowing other thoughts to return. Open your eyes and sit for another minute before rising.

Practice this technique once or twice daily. You can also do it during exercise, using the rhythm of your activity (jogging, swimming, cycling, dancing) as your focus.

Courtesy of the Johns Hopkins Health and Wellness Center
<http://www.jhu.edu/~shcenter/relaxationresponse.html>



Important JHU helplines

The Health and Wellness Center
Next to Terrace Court Cafe
(410) 516-8270
<http://www.jhu.edu/~shcenter>

The Counseling Center
Garland Hall, 3rd Hall
(410) 516-8278
<http://www.jhu.edu/~ccenter>

A Place To Talk (APTT)
AMR I
(410) 516-8001
<http://www.jhu.edu/~aptt>

Career Center
Garland Hall, 3rd Floor
(410) 516-8056
<http://www.jhu.edu/~careers>

The National Mental Health Association (NMHA)
(703) 684-7722
<http://www.nmha.org>

American Psychological Association (APA)
(202) 336-5500
<http://www.apa.org>

HEALTH HINTS

• To release pent-up pressure quickly, press and massage the point on your hand between your thumb and index finger. This is one of the most famous points of acupressure in Chinese medicine, said to be associated with emotions such as frustration and depression.

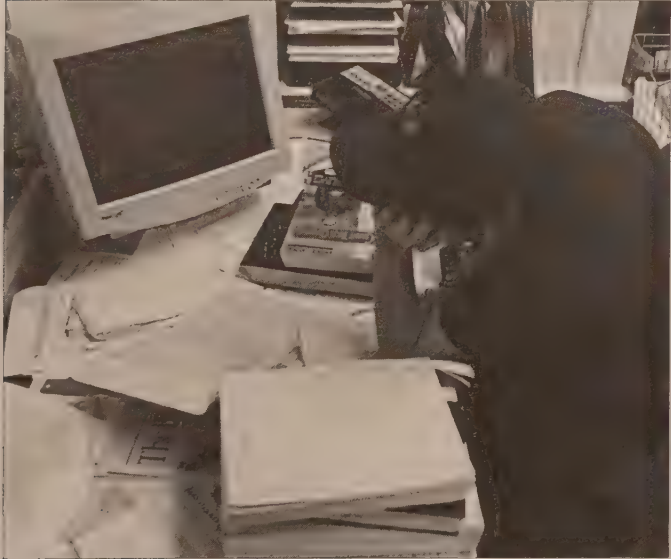
• Stress is one of the top causes of adult acne, i.e. there is a clear connection between stress and over-active oil glands, a leading cause of blemishes.

• For the stress-induced eaters, opt for snacks combining protein and low-fat carbohydrates to reenergize your body, like cottage cheese, fruit, etc.. Chomp down on almonds, bananas, and hard cheese, as they are naturally rich in tryptophan, a chemical that triggers a temporary serotonin flood in your brain.

• Do a 15-minute mini-workout. Releasing endorphins by exercise, even if it's only for a short period of time, has been proven to reduce stress.

• Instead of overdosing on chocolate, jump into bed. Having sex is a stress-reliever.

• For natural stress relief, try the following essential oils: jasmine, lavender, sandalwood, chamomile and rose.



VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN/NEWS-LETTER

Avoid stress overload during finals - make sure to schedule study breaks.

STRESS TIPS

Finals are daunting at any college, let alone Hopkins. Here are some tips from the National Mental Health Association on how to deal with exam week stress.

1. Get Moving — Exercise will decrease your stress level and make your study time more productive.
2. Eat Smart — Instead of overloading on pizza, eat a well-balanced diet to give you the energy you need through those three-hour exams.
3. Establish your priorities — With multiple term papers on top of multiple exams, all in the course of two weeks, decide what you have to finish today and what can wait until tomorrow.
4. Create a study plan — Make a schedule of what you're going to do each day and stick to it. Make sure to pencil in time for frequent short breaks.
5. Set realistic goals and reward yourself when you reach them — If writing all of your papers in one night is impossible (which it is), pick one and write out an outline for it. By the end of the night, type out a rough draft, and treat yourself to a walk or a bite to eat with friends when you finish.
6. Do what works for you — Some people love studying to music, while others need complete silence. Your friends might benefit from studying together, while you make more headway studying alone.
7. Listen to your body — Headaches, sore muscles, and nausea are all signs of stress. If you aren't feeling well, look into changing the way you study, or setting more realistic goals or study plans.
8. Take time to relax — Getting away from the library, even for a quick bite to eat, can make you more refreshed and focused when you get back to the books.
9. Recognize and accept your limits — Be aware of your strengths and weaknesses.
10. Celebrate at the end of exams — Don't stress out about how one test went, or what you should have added to another paper. Now's the time to celebrate and be proud of all of your hard work.

BY MELISSA ARTNAK
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

I'm not one to complain, but collectively the past seven days have formed a no-good, rotten, crappy week. Between studying for four midterm exams, dealing with a housing lottery number in the 300's, and applying for summer jobs, I have been pretty stressed out.

On the occasions when I usually get stressed out, everything can be solved with a Jason Mraz CD, frozen yogurt and a few naps. But no — this time, more and more kept on adding onto the pressure, and my tried and true tactics did not have their usual effect. By the time Saturday rolled around, I was desperate — ready to try just about anything to escape my perpetual state of stress. So, instead of following my natural impulse to stay in my pajamas all day and sleep my problems away, I threw on some sweats and sneakers with the intention of finding my inner Zen through yoga.

Yoga, which literally means "to yoke or bind," is a connection between physical stretches of the body, patterns of breath and thoughts of the mind. According to Amber Krause, yoga/Pilates instructor at the Ralph S. O'Connor Recreation Center, this mind-body connection is a result of the thought and concentration that occurs when the yoga participant focuses on herself and what the body is doing and lets her body move with her mood and rhythm of breathing.

Krause says that the benefits of yoga can be summed up into five main categories: strength, endurance, flexibility, relaxation and balance. Strength and flexibility are enhanced by the stretching motions of the yoga moves. Endurance is facilitated by the breathing patterns and surprisingly aerobic, sweat-inducing nature of the entire yoga

workout. Yoga requires considerable balance, which improves with time and practice. Most importantly, Krause says yoga is relaxing because of the "breathing, imagery, and just taking the time out of a busy day to do this for a few hours."

Despite my hesitance to partake in a workout that somehow involved yoking and binding, I convinced myself that the possibility of curing my stressed-out self was worth any risk. Before I knew it, I was standing in my bare feet on a thin yoga mat, which I had decided would not break any of my impending falls, ready for a supposedly relaxing hour of yogalates. Yogalates is a combination of yoga and Pilates, which is a very similar to yoga, except it is more fluid and faster paced and it relies more on the "core," or abs, back and torso.

The soothing sounds of Muzak for harp, chimes and keyboard played in the background as Krause began the class. She emphasized the importance of breathing deeply through the nose, moving with the rhythm of breathing and imagining a blank screen or white wall throughout the process. The workout started out fairly easy — most of the poses were done in a seated position, including one of my favorites, "the child," which involved curling up, face down, in a pseudo-fetal position and staying absolutely still. Even though our brains were supposed to be entirely clear, I could not help but think to myself, "Hey, this is even easier than the elliptical machine! Maybe I could get used to this yoga stuff..."

I soon realized that my initial impression was wrong — the yoga poses progressively became more complicated, and the Pilates aspect made the poses change rapidly. Just as I caught on to the exact positioning for one pose, the rest of the class was already switching to something else, leaving me in the proverbial dust. As I

scrambled to reach the same point as my classmates, I started to doubt the relaxation benefits of yoga. This was about as relaxing as a cardio kickboxing class, but I did not even get to punch or kick my frustrations out here, unless I accidentally flailed a limb while shifting into the "warrior" pose.

Despite a few moments of almost toppling over onto the yoga mat, I managed to make it through without severely injuring my clumsy self.

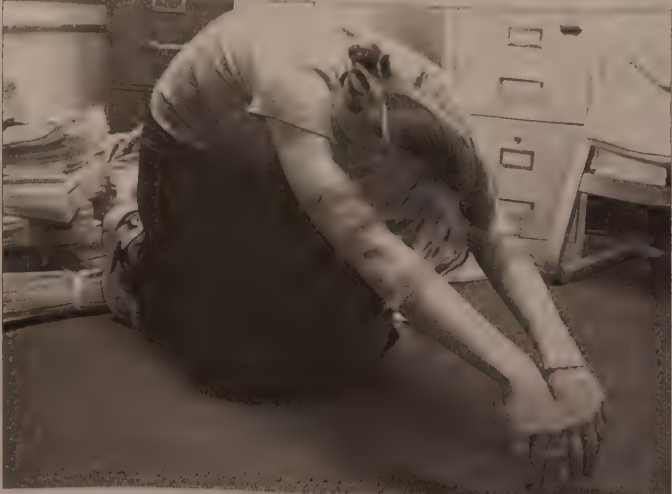
In fact, I actually enjoyed the class, especially the final pose of the day, the "corpse." This pose was exactly what it sounds like it should be — you lie down on your back on the yoga mat, close your eyes and meditate for 10 minutes. This reminded me of my beloved naps, so of course I decided it was my favorite yoga pose.

Krause recommends a few different yoga relaxation techniques that can be done in the comfort of your own dorm room. Try the seated position — sit cross-legged on the floor, breathe

deeply through your nose, close your eyes and block out any distractions. Relax your muscles, but be careful to maintain proper posture.

Or you could try the wonderful "corpse" pose — lie down, breathe through your nose, and slowly tense each muscle group and release, from your toes up to your face. Clear your mind and meditate until you feel totally relaxed, or in some cases, until you drift asleep.

After completing the yoga class, I felt a strange combination of being simultaneously relaxed and invigorated. The perpetual state of stress I had been unable to escape finally disappeared, and I regained my ability to focus and think clearly and rationally. I was ready to sign up for weekly classes and become a regular yoga enthusiast. But then I woke up the next morning with an abnormally stiff neck and a strange pain in my left shoulder, and I hoped my next mode of relaxation would be a nice, stress-relieving massage.



VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN/NEWS-LETTER

The positions may be difficult, but yoga is a great way to relax anywhere.

FEATURES

Get tied up with something besides work this weekend

Nothing really can compare to walking around campus and being stopped and asked a random sex question—it really adds variety to my day. Otherwise, the walk back from Bloomberg would just be tedious.

Once a couple of people hit on the same topic, it's time for an article. Apparently there are some people out there who really want to whip out the handcuffs but just don't know how to do it.

Consider last week's article introducing the idea of kink-lite by playing with food. If you think you want to push things a little further or want to take off more points from your purity test, light bondage can be a fun addition to your sex life.

However, when you don't know how a significant other is going to react to handcuffs, just slapping a pair on them is not the best idea—I guess at least, in this scenario, your partner can't really get away, but it's still not a nice surprise.

There are a couple of ways to spark a discussion about the subject with your partner.

If you're really worried about his/her reaction, you could gradually sneak the idea into your partner's head. You could do this by suggesting to watch light bondage porn or take the "guess what I heard x and y are doing" approach—it's slightly transparent, but that's not a bad thing.

If not-so-subtle cues aren't your thing, suggest it outright. It's usually best to err on the side of caution, so be sure to mention it while your clothes are still on, so your partner isn't too startled.

If talking is not a strength in your relationship, it can be pretty effective in some cases to start getting into it and then bring out a pair of handcuffs. Just dangle them there. Smile and say that you thought it'd be fun to try.

If your partner's already turned on, chances are he or she won't have much brain capacity to say no to your idea, unless they're really freaked out.

Some people are against introducing any toys—as if using them is an admission that something's wrong with their sex lives. If your partner's prone to "Is it me?" syndrome, be prepared to tell them that there's nothing wrong, and you just want to experiment.

If you skipped using food (see last week's column), feel free to try that first and move along accordingly. Gradually getting more kinky is a good way to introduce your partner to things that he or she would have originally been against.

The myth that your sex life only needs a jump-start if you're making your grocery list during sex is wrong. Sex needs to be about fun. And toys

are fun.

However, if your partner is interested but scared, there are a lot of different types of less restrictive bondage that doesn't involve jacking props from cops.

First, there's verbal bondage/domination. Tell your partner (or be told) to assume any position (let your imagination run away with you) and tell him/her not to move. Then have fun tormenting them and see how long they can last.

Or, I have a friend who put condoms between her boyfriend's fingers and told him not to drop them.

Sounds easy enough—I dare

you to try it some time. Mental games can be just as effective as physical ones and can get people mentally ready to move further.

Also, if you're one of many people living in dorms, a lot of the beds don't actually have a place for you to tie someone to. Do not let Hopkins put yet another damper on your sex life.

Just tying someone's wrists together or behind their back gives the same effect, but it's a lot less scary.

There are a million variations—the point is to broach the subject, see what your partner's down for, then work from there.

Finally, I would like just put a couple of things out there for the general good:

1) I suggest you actually start with cuffs and not physically tying someone to a bed. Most readily available things (ties, scarves, etc.) have a tendency to get tight quickly, and one of the least attractive things I can think of is losing feeling in my wrists—and then stopping sex to search for a scissor to cut it off.

2) Bondage, like anything with sex, involves trust—tying someone up taking their trust and running with it. I know this should go without saying, but don't leave your partner alone tied up. While you're there with them, it is fun—when

you're not, they're just cold and pissed off.

3) Do not use metal handcuffs—they will bruise you. You will then have to explain to friends why you have bruises around both your wrists. This will be awkward.

4) If you choose to ignore this advice, get cuffs that do not require a key and will not tighten on their own. If you for some reason get cuffs that require a

key, keep the key in a very safe place, and check to make sure it's there before you start.

I'm sure every locksmith has one great story about a guy or girl cuffed to a bed at like three in the morning.

You don't want to be that person.

BY JEFF KATZENSTEIN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Baltimore's Comedy Factory is one of the only places in the city where being doubled over doesn't mean you've been shot.

That's a good start.

This tiny and somewhat hidden venue, located above Burke's Café on the corner of Pratt and Light Streets is small on glitz and big on laughs. The waiting area outside the theatre is cramped before a show, and you probably won't recognize the faces of most of the comedians whose promo shots line the walls. The theatre is filled with cheap restaurant chairs and folding tables, and the stage is more like a platform in front of the classic brick wall backdrop.

But for a college student, or simply anyone who's out to have a great time on a weekend evening, it's just the thing.

Now in its eighth week of new ownership, the Comedy Factory, formerly

You can come here every weekend if you want to, and you're not spending \$300 every time you walk in the door. You can come in just like it's your favorite bar and watch a show.

— COMEDY FACTORY
GENERAL MANAGER
DANIEL TRACEY

a Def Jam club, is trying to steer towards more conventional comedy. "We're taking it in more of mainstream direction with more mass appeal," says General Manager Daniel Tracey.

Despite its more narrow appeal in the past, the venue has had its share of big names since its inception in 1985, including Robin Williams and Chris Rock. But even with Tracey's new mission, big names aren't really what the Comedy Factory is all about. You probably won't see such huge headliners on a usual weekend evening.

"I think that for national headliners, [Baltimore is seen as] a stop between [New York City and Washington, D.C.], but there are a lot of local comics that have come out of Baltimore," says Tracey. "Baltimore has a great scene."

According to Tracey, Dave Chappelle, star of Comedy Central's hit *Chappelle's Show* and movies such as *Half Baked*, used to MC at the Comedy Factory every weekend. Blaine Capatch, host of Comedy Central's *Beat the Geeks*, is also a native Baltimorean who has performed there. *The King of Queens* co-star Patton Oswalt regularly performed in Baltimore early in his career, and Lewis Black of *The Daily Show* is also originally from Charm City.

Tracey, who has a show on 98 Rock, makes the decisions on booking performers for the club. Each show features three comedians including an MC, a feature act and a headliner.

"MCs are typically people that are just getting started—it's almost like an audition process," explains Tracey. "That's the way you get your foot in the door in the triage of becoming a headliner."

MCs typically perform for 10 minutes and introduce the feature acts, who perform for 20 minutes, and the headliners, who perform for 40 minutes. While headliners are actively sought by the club, MCs and feature acts have to court the powers that be.

"A feature act has been around for a while—not quite a headliner but doing really good," says Tracey. Typically, feature acts send in audition tapes or DVDs to the Comedy Factory, and Tracey reviews them. He admits that the three major criteria used in judging these performances are professionalism, mass appeal and relate-ability.

"If it's somebody talking about L.A., it's probably not going to work here," he says. "I think I'm pretty well

Factory proves B'more a funny place

A night at the Comedy Factory won't be glitzy or expensive, but it will be laugh worthy



Chris Rock, the crown prince of comedy, graced Baltimore's Comedy Factory stage, bringing in the crowds.

in tune with what people in Baltimore find funny."

As far as headliners are concerned, Tracey looks for many of the same qualities, but the standards as far as experience are higher.

"Most of our headliners have minimum Comedy Central exposure, if not movies," he says. "With the headliners we put in, we haven't had any complaints since we've been open."

And although Tracey tries to find mass appeal, he realizes that he can't please everyone. "It's a risk," he admits. "It's kind of like a movie—you may go and not like it. I try to have acts that everybody will like."

Shows at the Comedy Factory are held on Fridays at 8:30 p.m. and 10:30

p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 p.m. Cover charge usually runs at about \$15, and there is a two drink minimum.

As is the general policy for most clubs, you must be 18 years of age to get in and 21 to drink. Beers and mixed drinkers run at around the same price as a bar in downtown Baltimore.

"You can come here every weekend if you want to, and you're not spending \$300 every time you walk in the door," says Tracey. "You can come in just like it's your favorite bar and watch a show."

"Our mission is to provide Baltimore with a place where they can go on a weekend night and have a great

time," says Tracey. "Laughter in my opinion in one of the best medicines out there—you can forget about all the worries in your life without spending an arm and a leg."

Baltimore Comedy Factory

36 Light Street

Phone: 410-547-7798
Price: \$35-40
Hours: Shows Friday at 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. and Saturday at 10:30 p.m.
www.baltimorecomedy.com

Hopkins Cycling Club boasts history and competitive spirit

BY LAUREN DEAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Graduate Student Ed Brignole stumbled upon the Johns Hopkins Cycling Club when he was looking for something to keep in shape after running track as an undergraduate. "Cycling isn't very popular for people under 18," Brignole said. "A lot of people get bikes for the first time, nice road bikes to do the Hopkins 4K, then they become interested in the riding clinics the club hosts and eventually in cycling as a serious sport." Like many other members of the cycling club however, Brignole fell in love with the sport and began to compete and do well in races.

The Johns Hopkins Cycling Club appears to be an organization with a bright future. The group boasts four national titles in two years. They can credit their popularity to membership being open not only to undergraduates, but graduate students as well as faculty members. And the cycling club can also be proud of the fact that former member Chris Hedges now rides professionally in Europe after training with Hopkins cycling.

Since joining the club, Brignole advanced to nationals in Colorado Springs, CO, placing 17th in the road race, 7 seconds behind the winner in 2001. He was also member of the winning time trial team in 2002, making him a part of a National Championship squad as well as one of Hopkins' best cyclers.

The cycling club is full of students just getting involved with cycling. "There are many enthusiastic beginners," said Brignole. "In fact, a lot of professional cyclers didn't start until college."

Sophomore Pat Kerns began cycling by participating in the Hopkins 4K. "A friend did the race in years past, and I started going to spinning classes to prepare for the race," he said. "I found out more about the

club, went to meetings, began doing group rides, and I competed for the first time in the West Virginia Road Race."

Others, like freshman Andrew Liu, were interested before coming to Hopkins. "I became interested in cycling my junior year in high school while watching the Tour de France," he said. "I got a racing bike senior year and wanted to go to a school with a competitive cycling club. The club was one of the things that drew me to

Hopkins."

The cycling club participates in the Atlantic Coast Cycling Conference (ACCC) division of the National Collegiate Cycling Association (NCAA), which is a part of the United States Cycling Federation (UACF). The fall is considered Mountain biking or cross country racing season, while in the spring, races consist of three road events: time trials, criteriums and road races.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4



The Cycling Club competes in the Atlantic Coast Cycling Conference.

Whether you've got a romantic query or a response to a previous week's article, we'd love to hear from you. To send questions anonymously, go to <http://www.jhunewsletter.com> and click "Contact Us." Or you can write to sex@jhunewsletter.com

FEATURES



ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-LETTER

A bad lottery number could mean last choice of rooms. Luckily, the housing lottery is quick and painless.

Housing lottery changes to provide smoother process

BY GINA CALLAHAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

While soon-to-be Hopkins upperclassmen may still be scrambling to secure housing for next year, their rising sophomore classmates are officially all set.

The housing lottery, a spring event that places current freshmen in dormitory room or suites for their sophomore years, took place last week. And with a few tweaks applied to the old system, the process is said to have run much more smoothly and efficiently than it had in previous years.

"I had heard horror stories from upperclassmen," said freshman Alëna Balasanova. "But when I went there I was out in an hour-and-a-half. Once we were in the room it took 10 minutes."

Major changes to the housing selection process included carrying it out over four days instead of one and posting the remaining rooms online at the end of each evening so that students could update their selections prior to taking their turns at the lottery.

Associate Director of Housing Regine LaForest-Sarif says these and other changes to the process were implemented after student and staff input revealed that students were unsatisfied with and unprepared throughout the old process. "Last year we were taken aback," LaForest-

Sharif said. "The current sophomore class wasn't prepared for the process."

LaForest-Sarif and the housing staff consequently held focus groups in October and November of this school year, asking a random selection of sophomores how the process could have better served their housing needs, and looked for feedback from their Housing Advisory Board. "We asked them a number of questions about satisfaction and levels of importance," LaForest-Sarif said.

One of the things we heard consistently was that we needed to go from a one-day process to a multi-day process.

— ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING REGINE LAFOREST-SARIF

"We got really good feedback. What we found out was that the things we thought would be issues for students were."

The hectic nature of the one-day event was something mentioned by many students surveyed. "One of the things we heard consistently was that we needed to go from a one-day process to a multi-day process," LaForest-Sarif said.

multi-day process," LaForest-Sarif said.

Instead of holding the event all day on a Saturday, it took place in stages on Mon March 29 to Thurs April 1, starting at 6 p.m. Groups and individuals were assigned a night and either a 6 to 7:30 p.m. slot or a 7:30 p.m. to completion slot. The number of groups and individuals scheduled for a particular night decreased as the week went on, with the assumption that those with higher lottery numbers would make their selection more slowly. Each night ended between 9

and 9:30 p.m.

"As much as we complained about getting the number that we did and waiting to pick, it went smoothly once we got there," said freshman Ashley Watson, who at number 264, made housing selections on the event's third day.

At the conclusion of each evening, housing staff updated the office's Website to indicate which rooms would be available for the remaining lottery participants to select. When this procedure was complete, at times ranging from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., students received an email urging them to view the site before coming to room selection.

This component of the process meant that students arrived at their turns with better ideas of their options. "The online system meant people weren't scrambling," said Sarah Goonan, one resident advisor involved with the selection process.

The Internet was also used in the earliest stage of the lottery when students registered either in a group or individually. This was a measure that was implemented last year and determined to be successful.

As usual, housing tours were offered to students prior to the selection process. This year, however, the tours were scheduled for later, more accessible times, after student input revealed that many who would have otherwise attended were unable to do so because of classes and other commitments.

Another alteration to the housing schedule was a workshop, held the day after students received their lottery priority number that was aimed at helping them make the most of their lot. "I went to the 'Make your Number Work for You' workshop and it was so full that I had to sit on the floor," Balasanova said. "I think a lot of people were reassured at that workshop. They gave you frank answers about your chances." After the workshop housing staff met individually with students to devise personal plans for room selection.

Nana Forson is one student who had a less than stellar experience in selecting her room for next year, but her concerns were not with the organization of the system. After she split from her group of three to take a spot in the Homewood where she could have access to a kitchen, Forson received complaints and threats from the girls with whom she was slotted to live. They were presumably hoping to hold the room for one of their friends who was lower in the lottery. She immediately contacted the housing office where she was placed on a waiting list so that she could alter her housing situation. Forson was firm that she was not content to stay in her slot. "There was no way in hell," she said. "And the sick part is this happens a lot."

Forson was pleased, however, with the way the housing office handled her problem. "They were so helpful," she said. "The process itself was really smooth. It was just problems with individual students."

No bologna: Attman's is the best deli in Baltimore

This shikseh's off to celebrate Passover with a good-old corned beef, mustard, and rye at Baltimore's effective nod to a Jewish New York deli, Attman's. Attman's delicatessen, has withstood the test of time—86 years worth—with its taller than tall corned beef sandwiches, award-winning knishes, and its near infamous kosher hot dog with fried bologna.

Since 1915, people have been schlepping out to this Little Italy stand by. The neighborhood's seen better days (I would be slightly leery of parking on the street after dark), but the deli's main hall is booming with packed patrons and smelling of stacked sandwiches just as it always has.

Prove you have chutzpah by pushing your way to the end of the line and calling out your order (there is no menu—just randomly posted signs) and don't forget to bus your own tray. Attman's has a surprising array of real robust sandwiches; you won't find anything but hearty fresh bread piled with the highest quality meats and served with the all-important zesty sour pickle. Despite names like Tongue Fu and Gay Liberation (which an actual New York deli would probably scoff at), there are no cutesy designer sandwiches here. At Attman's there is no substitution for a few quality ingredients; this is the real deal.

If you're into more traditional Jewish fare, there are knishes, latkes, matzo ball soup, kosher hot dogs, fresh bagels and lox, brisket, borscht,

whitefish salads, and homemade rugelach and bread pudding for dessert. The corned beef itself has become a local legend: juicy and salty without being fatty and sturdy bread to contain it all. There's a good reason the street Attman's is on is nicknamed "Corned Beef Row."

The décor is appropriately tacky,



MELISSA
FELDsher
WHINING AND
DINING

narrow and noisy. An adjoining room allows patrons to sit among photos of stuffed celebrities, most of which I failed to recognize. Attman's oozes with character, which can only be expected from a restaurant that's become a neighborhood tradition after 86 years in the business. The walls are lined with "Best in Baltimore" awards and various other tchotchkes

related to Baltimore.

An unexpected surprise was that the service was not intimidating or pretentious, a usual characteristic of the big-time New York delis, where their first question is, "Are you a tourist?" The staff at Attman's Delipushes you along, but only so they can serve you quickly and efficiently. Attman's commits another faux pas, that of—gasp—microwaving the meat to heat it up. Though this Baltimore mainstay may hypothetically be small beans up in the Big Apple, it's right at home in Charm City, just chalk up this tiny indiscretion to my being a tri-state area snob.

Attman's has the added plus of being an ideal lunch spot. With prices between \$5-11 (something big-time New York delis can't compete with), this makes lunch less than the price of a cab ride out to Attman's. Consistently named the best deli in the Baltimore area, you'd have to be meshuggah not to go, hon.

Attman's Delicatessen

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Location: Little Italy

Price: \$5-10

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m. 6:30 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Cycling club goes the distance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

The road race is designed as a distance event. In a road race the women can ride up to 30 miles and the men can ride up to 66. The criterion is a short course that runs less than a mile and the cyclists do a series of laps in which the order you finish, rather than the time, dictates the winner. Therefore, the group of riders can go as fast or slow as they like, as long as they finish in a certain order. The time trial race is done with a team of 2-4 people that go as fast as they can for 12-15 miles. The club, coached by Kristopher Auer, was founded in the early '80s when Johns Hopkins hosted a race at Lake

Montebello that was a part of an intramural fraternity competition in which fratboys would compete in different sports for points.

Two of the strongest racers at the time were Patrick Liu and Peter Verheyen and the group competed

in the USCF, as the NCAA was not founded yet. Liu and Joe Carey founded the Charm City Velo club and Kozo Shimano, the man behind the Shimano bike components company, was also attending Hopkins at the time and was involved with the club.

The club was inactive during the early '90s until students Dan Mullady and Hansen Su, attempted to resurrect it. It wasn't until the late '90s that members began rac-

ing seriously in collegiate competitions.

In the last two years Hopkins has won four national titles in Division II cycling. In 2002 the men took the team time trial and criterium, and in 2003 the men won the road race and the team time trial. In the fall and spring, the club competes in races held during most weekends.

Not everyone in the club competes; a lot of members only ride recreationally. Training is also flexible. "It is very informal, there are no set schedules, but our coach gives us individually designed training schedules and there are group rides every week as well," said Liu. "Most members try to ride at least an hour a day and two to three hours on weekends."

The weekend of April 24, Hopkins will team up with University of Maryland and American University to host the conference championships for the ACCC. Hopkins will host the criterium race which will be held at Druid Hill Park that Saturday from 11-6 p.m. More information about the cycling club can be obtained on their Web site <http://www.jhu.edu/~cycling/>.



Hopkins cyclists get ready for the chance to take off and show their power and precision on the bikes. COURTESY OF JHU CYCLING CLUB

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FEATURES

HOT AT HOPKINS

Are you a gift that's just waiting to be given to that special someone? Do you have a hot friend who really needs a date? Nominate someone! E-mail: HotatHopkins@jhunewsletter.com



Name: Ilya Bourtnan
Astrological Sign: Gemini
Year: Sophomore
Major: International Relations/History

This scrumptious Soviet (he's originally from Moscow) wants a girl who can not only be devoted to him, but can challenge him intellectually. But that doesn't mean you can disagree with him. Ilya's worst date was when he and a girl clashed on every subject under the sun. To make matter worse, she liked the Yankees.

Other than an intellectual challenge and some common ground, Ilya's looking for a graceful, charming, elegant, active, intelligent and sharp woman. He admits that he's usually awkward around girls, but he's nonetheless a self-proclaimed gentleman.

Ilya's not only after an intellectual challenge in conversation, though. He's part of the newest 5-year B.A./M.A. SAIS program and

is currently a fellow at a Washington, D.C. think tank. Still, he describes himself as a "wanna-be intellectual." But Ilya's not all work, ladies. In fact, he's been skinny dipping off the coast of Cape Cod. His best date was when he went to an Armenian restaurant and started dancing to the ethnic music with his date.

Here at Hopkins, he's an AEPI brother, and is a member on the boards of CHAI and Hillel. In his free time, he enjoys reading and sailing. He also thinks Russians are one of the most unattractive nationalities out there.

So before Ilya leaves for SAIS, grab your chance to get a taste of this white Russian.



Name: Mary Brunner
Astrological Sign: Libra
Year: Junior
Major: Psychology/Public Health

This tall, blond hottie from Mt.

Pleasant, Michigan is, well, more than pleasant on the eyes. Mary describes herself as "rowdy, goofy and affectionate."

Luckily for the guys, Mary admits that she has no distinct type of guy that she prefers. Of course, she's always willing to throw out some adjectives that she likes, including gutsy, rowdy, intelligent, generous, fun and very loyal.

"Anything could be amazing if you have the right attitude," Mary says. "I could be happy doing anything as long as the guy was up for fun." That "anything" could mean coed, naked Beirut (the craziest thing she's ever done), or going to IHOP and then Petsmart to pet puppies and kittens on a Saturday morning.

Still, Mary says that she hasn't been out on too many dates. Let's pick it up, guys. This girl is cute and fun. What more could you ask for?

Mary admits that she's got a cheddar cheese fetish, and enjoys "rocking out in the shower, dancing and constantly making weird noises like 'narf narf.'" In fact, she's been caught by her roommate while singing "Toxic" by Britney Spears in the voice of Beaker from the Muppets.

When she's not freaking out her roommate, Mary can be found at A Place to Talk or watching "arty, weird" classic movies. She also enjoys listening to Ani DiFranco over and over again and wearing a new black trenchcoat that makes her look like Dick Tracy.

When Mary is going after a guy, she only sometimes has the courage to tell him. So why wait for her to make the move, guys? After all, she admits that she is "single, but whatever."

Transatlantic relations and issues the focus of new SAIS publication

Current trends in transatlantic politics will hopefully be easier for those outside academic and diplomatic circles to follow thanks to a new publication from Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

Transatlantic Magazine: Europe, America and the World, a publication of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at SAIS, was officially introduced at a reception held last week. The magazine is the brainchild of Robert Guttman, a senior fellow at SAIS and the former editor of *Europe Magazine* published by the European Commission in D.C.

"I thought with everything going the way it has between the expansion of the European Union and the Iraq War, the time was right for a magazine to cover it," said Guttman. "I had served as the Editor-in-Chief of *Europe Magazine* that was published by the European Commission but discontinued last year. Johns Hopkins University saw the advantages to helping me create a forum for transatlantic dialogue."

The front cover of the premiere issue features a group of children holding hands and standing on a map. The title story asks the question everyone on this side of the Atlantic has been wondering since Iraq, "Are We Still Friends?"

Transatlantic Magazine looks across the ocean from a business perspective with an article entitled, "A Day in the Life" by Bruce Barnard, a correspondent for the *Journal of Commerce* that reveals that transatlantic connections are an integral part of ordinary existence. For example, it discusses how American McDonald's has seen its most explosive growth in France in the last year, while French based Dannon dairy company continues to eat away at the American market—releasing such favorites as the 60-calorie yogurt cup in the last few years.

A section including letters from London, Dublin, Paris, Stockholm, Rome and Berlin addressing such news as possible citing for the 2012 Olympics, anti-EU sentiment, the consequences of a strong Euro, H&M's implosion in American fashion, France's current ambitions within the European Union, and Berlusconi's face lift (before and after photographs included).

"Transatlantic Talk," will also be a regular feature of the magazine covering such topics as Lauren Bush's modeling success in Europe, Kerry's European connections, civil unions in France, and Belgium's tennis stars.

The magazine's "Cultural Comments" section explores the Winston Churchill exhibition at the Library of Congress and reviews the European smash-hit, "The Triplets of Belleville." Also included is an exclusive inter-

APRIL J. ANDERSON CAPITOL CONNECTION

view with Elizabeth Pond, author of "Friendly Fire: The Near Death of the Transatlantic Alliance" on the current transatlantic relationship.

In addition, a tongue-in-cheek article by Martin Walker, who recently wrote a book on the Iraq War, offers one perspective on the Bush Administration with his article, "10 Reasons Europeans Should Like George Bush."

After viewing each of these features, one might ask again, are we still friends? The "Last Word" page answers this question with definitions of friend by

transatlantic icon, John Lennon and present French Ambassador, John-David Levitte, among others.

Transatlantic Magazine Editor-in-Chief Robert Guttman hope will one day be as successful as the *Times* or *Economist*. It is certainly already unique in its commitment to "bring together and present leading academic and political points of view from Europe, the United States and International Organizations in one place for the reader to assess."

In the immediate future, *Transatlantic Magazine* will be hosting joint conferences with the *Financial Times*. "On May 6, we will present our first joint endeavor celebrating more than fifty years of transatlantic strategy and commitment to working together," Guttman said.

Guttman is optimistic for the role of the publication in the context of the future of transatlantic relations. "We will continue to be political allies and business and economic partners," he said. "Working together the United States and European Union can accomplish anything—and if you subscribe to *Transatlantic Magazine*, you can read along as the story unfolds."

For subscription information, please visit the SAIS website.



COURTESY OF TRANSATLANTIC MAGAZINE
The first issue of a new School of Advanced International Studies publication has a poignant question to ask about transatlantic relations.

Students with familiar faces

High school classmates make the transition to college together

BY JESS YODIN

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The journey from lockers to lecture halls comes with its own set of baggage. But while making the transition from high school to college is tough enough on its own, it can be complicated when a person from your high school comes along for the ride.

For some students, it is harder to put up a new persona with your gym class buddy right there watching. For others, the comfort of a high school acquaintance is just enough to boost the confidence level during freshman orientation.

Hailing from Berkeley High School in Berkeley, Ca., Jonathon Houser and Ian Stumpf find the familiarity to be comforting. The two have known each other since age eleven when they bonded over a campfire at Boy Scouts. The friendship followed them to high school and eventually college. The boys found that the same types of schools accepted them. They both knew they wanted to go to the eastern part of the country and realized Hopkins would be a good fit. Both agree that they didn't sway each other's decision, but it was nice to know they would be flying out together.

"It is interesting to see someone you've known before college change into a grown man," said Houser, a senior.

"We have been going to school together since seventh grade. It is sad to think that next year we are ending our 10-year streak. It will be strange not to have a 'Houser' around," said Stumpf, also a senior.

For Matt O'Neill and Dylan Selterman, the experience was slightly different. These two Westchester boys found they were very close at home and things changed when they came to school.

"Matt and I are extremely different people," Selterman. "In high school it is easy to roll with the same crowd, but college is a time to develop as your own person. It was inevitable that we wouldn't be as close in college. Although, ironically, when we are home we retain the closeness we once had."

"Dylan and I hung out a lot when we first came to school," added O'Neill. "As we started to make friends, we realized that we liked different kinds of people."

For juniors Kim Phelan and Sean Heffernan the journey from high school to undergraduate education brought them closer together. Both Bostonians agree that they wouldn't



DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER
Freshmen Rose Zulliger and Ron Benjami, high school classmates, share a bond that only those who hail from Ohio can understand.

have necessarily kept in touch past high school, but now they are really close.

"I'm so glad I had the opportunity to go to the same school as Sean," said Phelan. "He is an amazing person. I remember him as being very goofy in high school. For our senior play he dressed as a pumpkin and wore green tights."

"We were not as close in high school, but we are certainly close now," Heffernan added. "Our friends in college seem to be similar, although defining a circle of friends in high school and college are completely different."

For Rose Zulliger and Ron Benjamin, Hopkins students from the Midwest, college provided a renewed friendship that would not have necessarily continued on after high school.

"It is nice that we are both from Ohio, most people already have preconceived notions about residents from our state; it is fun to defy the stereotype," said Ron, a freshman.

"Ron actually helped me make my decision to come here," Rose, also a freshman, said. "I was extremely torn between Hopkins and Tufts. I sent back my reply at the very last minute. I do remember talking to Ron online and asking his advice. He told me to flip a coin and heads meant Hopkins. It was helpful at the time."

Rose was not the only one given a heads up. For Heffernan, it was Kim who inspired him to join up with Pre-Orientation.

"I didn't know anything about Pre-O. She had mentioned something about it and I enjoyed backpacking and now I am the director of the program," said Heffernan.

Sometimes it takes that familiar



DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER
Dylan Selterman and Matt O'Neill became closer after coming to Hopkins.

face to inspire new ideas and activities. Matt and Dylan for example collectively decided to reevaluate their pre-med academic tracks. After consulting one another they chose to drop the major and pursue other interests. Dylan is now a psychology major and Matt an Economics major, but both are happy that the other "bailed."

Although for some, different majors actually promote a sense of independence amongst high school friends. "It is important not to cling to your safety," said Stumpf. "I think different majors lead to different activities. For instance I'm somewhat involved with political organizations, while he interns at a mental institution."

Often times high school friends will end up in the same elective classes and resort to high school ways.

"I usually let Matt copy my notes because he never comes to class. Although I enjoy getting him back at home. When our friends ask me if Matt is 'cool' on campus, I enjoy having the authority to say 'nope', only for effect of course," said Selterman.

"It is just like old times with Dylan when we find we are both up late procrastinating," said O'Neill.

According to these students the best part of the high school/college friend experience is that of learning about another person you've known in the past.

"It is nice to have similar experiences at school with someone you know from home. It is very different than just having the occasional email from a high school friend. I know I have a deeper connection with someone else at school, which keeps me honest with myself," said Stumpf.

"I never used to think Matt was funny, but now I've seemed to adopt his sense of humor," said Selterman.

"It is great during the adjustment period to have someone who knows you and knows where you are coming from when you don't know anyone. It's a unique experience to watch a person you know from one environment appear in a different one. It offers a whole new perspective on the person," said Phelan.

"It was great seeing Ron in action at a frat party. I never expected him to join a fraternity," said Zulliger.

"I know that Rose was so torn about where to come to college. It makes me happy to see how much she likes it here," said Benjamin.

I'm sure many of you have seen prospective high school students from your hometown. Would you encourage them to come? For some it is company on the ride home, for others it is a lifelong friendship.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Girl Next Door: a hooker of a film with a heart of gold



PHOTO CREDIT
The premise of this teenie bopper film is the geek next door falls in love with the girl next door, Elisha Cuthbert.

BY SHAYAN BARDHAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

There never seems to be a dearth of teen movies, so it's a big compliment that *Girl Next Door* manages to stand out in the crowd and actually make you not want to tear your hair out or wish you watched something else. It goes even a step further and makes you follow the premise, care about the protagonist and absolutely admire the girl.

I'll admit that the only reason I even ventured into a sneak preview for this movie to begin with was the girl, Elisha Cuthbert. She plays Danielle, an ex-porn star still in her teens, who has the sexy look and come-hither pout mastered down to an exact science. The movie wouldn't work if we couldn't believe that Danielle could be a girl you are likely to run into in your neighborhood (we can all hope) and an adult movie star at the same time. By the time the movie ends, Elisha Cuthbert is more than worth the ticket, but it's a funny and enjoyable movie for many other reasons.

It all starts with Matt (Emile Hirsch), our everyday straight-arrow kid, who feels that it would be a good

time to finally end his social exile with graduation only a few weeks away.

It's a good idea but his geeky best friends Eli (Chris Marquette) and

The Girl Next Door is like a porn movie on some level: the premise is funny, the actress is hot, and you learn a thing or two about quirky human relationships.

Klitz (Paul Dano) can't quite come up with a plan that doesn't include attending all their classes.

Soon Matt finds something better to do than prepare for a scholarship speech when he finds a beautiful girl moving in next door. One night his voyeuristic fantasies come true when

he catches an illicit glimpse of the gorgeous Danielle. He's soon busted (that's what you get when you forget to turn the light out); now it seems only fair that he has to return the favor. So with this most unusual of introductions, Matt and Danielle soon start falling for each other. She likes his naïve and unassuming nature and he is just mesmerized by her looks and wild streak. Alas, this bliss is broken as soon as the resident porn guru and wannabe filmmaker, Eli, finds out about Danielle's (or Athena as she is better known in her cinematic travails) true past.

The movie peaks with a scene that follows this discovery. Eli convinces Matt that there is nothing more incredible than taking a famous porn star to a cheap motel and doing what she does best; an episode which Cuthbert handles with brilliance. Danielle toys with everyone's emotions at will — and you can almost hear yourself thanking the heavens above that this movie didn't take a potentially awkward scene and turn it into one big cheese-fest.

There is a new character introduced in the shape of Kelly (Timothy Olyphant), Danielle's manager, who wants to take her back to "work". Initially, Kelly and Matt get along; Kelly is a big brother type showing the school go-getter the ropes of living life without a few rules. I guess Matt didn't quite grasp the whole concept since he decides it's time he convinced Danielle to quit her profession. We all know that next to Colombian drug-lords and Sicilian mafia, Hollywood smut producers are probably next in line as people not to mess around with.

This is where the movie gets a bit messy and toys with autopilot mode. The plot quickly gets too convoluted for its own good, yet it retains its sense of humor and delivers very funny moments. It becomes an exercise in rooting for what we know will probably happen; it's just a matter of how we get there. Director Luke Greenfield (probably better not mentioned that he made *The Animal*) does know what the movie's main strength is — Emile and Elisha's pairing — and he makes sure that the camera doesn't stray from them for long. By the time the movie ends, you are probably thinking less about why a lot of things don't make sense the way they turned out and more about how it just felt right on the whole.

The best part about *The Girl Next Door* is that it takes itself lightly and enjoys the opportunity to do so. It features an excessive use of slow motion and quick editing, yet it shows that you can forgive almost anything as long as it achieves what it set out to do.

There are no long passionate speeches or teary wails and even the sincerest of moments are lightly airbrushed. Maybe *The Girl Next Door* is like a porn movie on some level: the premise is funny, the actress is hot and you learn a thing or two about quirky human relationships.

BY ALEXANDRA FENWICK
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Johns Hopkins Film Festival, a three-day event founded in 1998 by Hopkins undergraduates and still completely run by students, makes it way onto the big screen in Shriver for the sixth year all this weekend.

Although Hopkins isn't widely known as a bastion for aspiring filmmakers, in 1964 the university did graduate one Mr. Wes Craven, famous director of horror films including *Nightmare on Elm Street* and the *Scream* trilogy.

Since then, however, undergraduate interest in film and media has grown markedly, and the Hopkins Film festival, funded solely by submission fees charged to entrants, one of only three film festivals held yearly in Maryland, is much anticipated by the local film community.

I recently chatted with Sean Ruch, a film and media studies major and a social events chair for the Johns Hopkins Film Society, the official student group that organizes the festival. Without further ado, here is the feature scoop on this annual campus event.

In case of emergency: walk, do not run, to the nearest exit. And please, no talking.

N-L: When does the Film Society first start planning for the festival?

SR: We start getting submissions starting in October and the deadline is January 31.

N-L: How many make the cut?

SR: We got around 120 submissions and we accepted about 10 features plus several shorts for the experimental, animation, and student filmed programs.

N-L: How important is the Hopkins Film Fest in the scope of the Maryland film world?

SR: We're one of three film festivals in the state, the other two are Microcinest and the Maryland Film Festival. We're probably more similar to Microcinest, in that Maryland Film Festival caters to a more professional audience.

N-L: How do you pick what is shown?

SR: We try to pick things that won't get shown too many other places. We can go for low budget things that are good rather than big budget ones that are good

N-L: Where do the submissions come from?

SR: Most are from Baltimore and Maryland but we get some from all around the world too. There were a few from England, Germany and Australia this year.

N-L: What off the wall submission didn't make the cut?

SR: We got a submission that was a documentary made by this guy who was a cult leader or something. I don't think he actually had a cult, I think he was just crazy.

The whole movie was just him babbling about his theories about

demon worship. That one did not make the cut.

N-L: Have any past Hopkins film festival entrants gone on to win any industry awards?

SR: Two years ago we had a documentary that went on to be shown at the Slamdance festival where it won best documentary and then the filmmakers went on to start their own festival.

N-L: What is new or different about the festival this year?

SR: Not much. There are different people running it this year so their different tastes are reflected, but the festival itself has been pretty consistent.

N-L: If people could only come see one evening's worth of film, what do you recommend they absolutely not miss?

SR: *Afro-Punk* is a really good documentary that is doing really well in a lot of film festivals and the animation shorts are always fun. *Prison A Go-Go*, a feature-length, campy, low-budget zombie prison film is another good one.

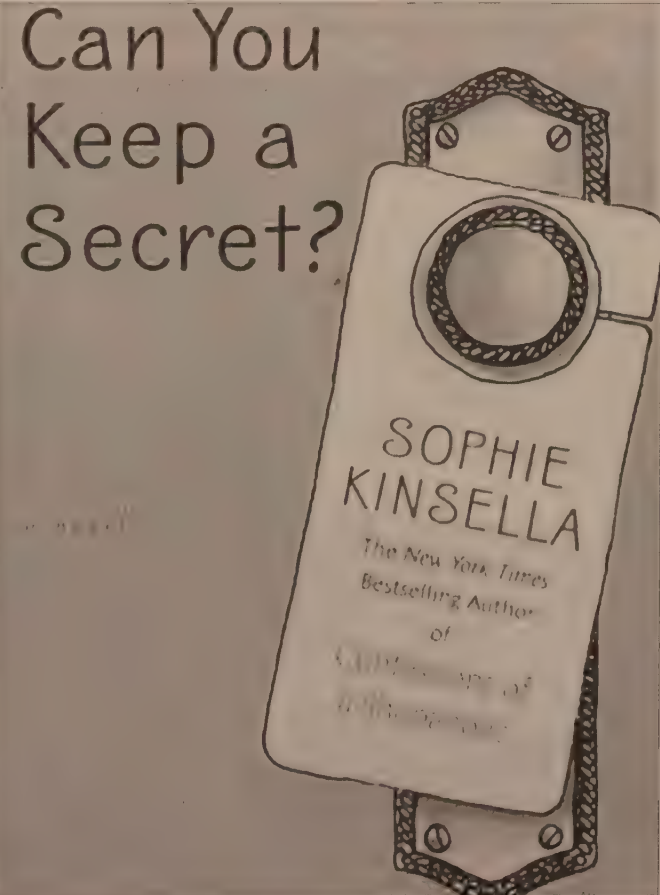
The festival will be held in Shriver Hall April 8-11. See <http://www.jhu.edu/~jhufilm/fest/> for a complete listing of showtimes.

Admission is free for JHU students, faculty and employees with an ID, otherwise admission is \$3 per show, \$5 for a day pass and \$15 for a festival pass.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.KINOUNTERSTERNEN.AT](http://www.kinountersternen.at)
The Velvet Goldmine is one of the films featured in this year's three-day Johns Hopkins Film Festival.

The hottest in chick lit, a very popular girly genre



BY JULIE TREMAINE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

In the post-Bridget Jones era, there's a formula for chick-lit, a literary genre named after the recent rash of girly books written for girly girls:

1. **Start with one heroine:** She's about 25. She's pretty, but not gorgeous, and people generally like her. We'll call her 'lovably flawed.' She probably lives in London, working at a job that isn't great, but seems to be going okay so far. It may or may not involve writing.

2. **Add her flatmates:** She has two. One is her best friend since childhood. The other is snotty, but she's wealthy and on time with the rent, so they let her stay. Let's not forget her eccentric and traumatizing parents who live a train ride away.

3. **Enter the future boyfriend:** He's handsome. He's rich. He's about ten years older than our heroine. But he's also a gruff, single-minded businessman. At least at first.

4. **Briefly put the heroine and the future boyfriend at odds:** They hate each other at first, even though they could cut the sexual tension with a knife. He will eventually soften up and make the first move.

5. **Briefly bring the heroine and boyfriend together:** It's blissful. She can't believe she's fallen in love so

fast. She can't stop thinking about him.

6. **Add two speedbumps:** First, he messes up. Big time. She disappears, feeling used and hurt. Then he barely gets his foot back in the door when she messes up. He doesn't know what to think. He leaves, which allows for a dramatically suspenseful chapter involving best friend support and white wine.

7. **Finish with a fairytale ending:** He always comes back. He's got his heart on his sleeve and his millions in tow. They live happily ever after, which, for our heroine, means having the first man who ever really loves her and the ability to buy everything in *British Vogue*.

It's the formula. Look inside any book with a pink cover, and that's what you'll find — with minor variations in physical features and designer of choice.

So when I picked up Sophie Kinsella's *Can You Keep a Secret?*, I wasn't expecting anything different. She's the author of the best-selling *Shopaholic* books. And this one has a pink cover too, after all.

Meet Emma Corrigan, an assistant in the marketing department of a London corporation. She's on a plane despite her fear of flying. When the plane hits severe turbulence, she thinks she's going to die.

In her panic, she spills her most closely guarded secrets to the handsome American in the seat next to

her. She feeds orange juice to her obnoxious colleague's plant. Her boyfriend reminds her of a Ken doll. It goes on for over an hour.

To her horror, the good-looking stranger on the plane turns out to be the CEO of her company. She thinks that her boss knowing her every humiliating secret is the worst that could happen. Then... well, you can follow the formula from here.

The problem with chick-lit is not its predictability. It's the fact that the formula works. Every time. Emma Corrigan isn't that impressive in the beginning of the book. But as you read, you get sucked in. You *have* to keep reading, even if you don't really want to.

At one point you'll think, "Yes! It happened! Finally!" At a later point, you'll think "No! Just walk away! He's not worth it!" But you'll close the book (on the same day you start it) with a happy sigh. That's just the way it works.

Helen Fielding did it first, and Helen Fielding was the only one who wrote an original chick-lit book. The rest are variations on a theme.

But if you love Bridget Jones, then you'll love Becky Bloomwood from *Confessions of a Shopaholic*, and you'll love Emma Corrigan only slightly less.

If you prefer chick flicks, though, just be patient. Kate Hudson is already signed to play Emma in the movie.

Once Twice festival is the cutting edge

High profile international acts play electronic compositions at Hopkins, local venues.



Poet Antye Greie-Fuchs (aka AGF) will perform at the Once Twice festival this weekend in Baltimore.

BY EMILY COHAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

What happens when you invite the most innovative electronic music and video artists from around the world to Charm City for a three-night event? You get the Once Twice Sound Festival. And with one night on the Hopkins own campus, anyone remotely interested in seeing how the electronic music scene is shaping across the globe, should come to this event.

"There really isn't an event like this anywhere else on the East Coast," says Ben Parris, co-organizer of the event.

The festival moves from the Ottobar on Thursday, April 15 to

The Supreme Imperial, a cool new music and art space warehouse, on Friday, April 16, and closes with Saturday's show at the Second Decade Society Room in the Mattin Center. And this year the organizers added a free international video art screening before Saturdays show in Mattin 227.

"This festival is unique in that it offers such a wide range of elec-

tronic music. Each night is refined to present one style, which is completely different from the other nights," Parris says.

Thursday will present break beats and twisted hip hop, showcasing artists like Jimmy Edgar, who is coming out with a much anticipated album on Warp records this summer.

Friday's show will feature more traditional dance-techno, and the

America hasn't really been exposed to these kinds of newer electronica.

—CO-ORGANIZER BEN PARRIS

atmosphere will be more like a club party.

The closing show will showcase minimalistic electronica and will have a major emphasis on video integration with the audio performance.

"We paired audio and visual artists up to present the combination using [computer] programs like Max/MSP/Jitter. In Saturday's performance, video is emphasized as much as audio."

"Every year its been really fun," says Parris, who has been running the event for four years. "When performers come to Baltimore, the crowds are really responsive, and it really makes an impression on the performers that Baltimore is a good place to come, that the people here are open-minded."

And this year, the venues match perfectly to the type of music being played." The Ottobar is as good a place as any to hear those head-nodding bass lines. The Supreme Imperial, an artsy warehouse, is the perfect venue to present dance inducing techno.

Finally, the Second Decade Society Room, has already been the perfect venue for both of the showcases that Nerven put on earlier this year as prequels to the Once Twice Sound Festival.

The Once Twice Festival is still relatively unknown, but that doesn't stop it from bringing acts that are on the cutting edge of electronica across the globe.

This year's festival highlights artists mainly from San Francisco, Detroit, Montreal and Berlin. "America hasn't really been exposed to these kinds of newer electronica, and so there's not really an infrastructure to present it like trance or other kinds of music you'll find in the club scene in America."

So we're hoping the festival gives these incredibly talented artists a way to get the exposure that they already have in places like Europe," says Parris.

As a dance fiend, I'm looking forward to going to the Friday night show, especially because the Baltimore rave scene has lately been centered around warehouses. Ben Parris feels that most people would find Thursday night's hip-hop show easiest to take in.

All three of the venues look like promising treats with all that music and video talent. If you can't make it to all three, the best bet is to least catch the free international video art screening on Saturday afternoon.

New Vibrations

Ben Kweller—
On My Way
APO
April 6, 2004



Ben Kweller has a very boring voice. You don't notice it really, because he masks it so well. He hides it behind enormously charming chords, enthusiastic production and adolescent lyrics. But Ben Kweller is no adolescent and those tricks don't work as well as they did on his promising debut, *Sha Sha*, on his follow up *On My Way*.

Kweller seems to have lost the enthusiasm of his first record, drifting from his strength as pop artist to his less developed talent as a singer songwriter. None of his songs are downright dreadful, in fact some of them are quite good ("I Need You Back," "Hear Me Out"), but they no longer feel unique or inspired as tracks on his first album did.

There was a bit more diversity on *Sha Sha* than you'll find here. Kweller seemed to spin gold out of power pop, folk music, acoustic ballads and alternative rock. He had a piano-down-the-staircase epic in "In Other Words" and a heart-rendering torch song in *Lizzy*. *On My Way* lacks any of this kind of dynamic success.

Instead, the songs kind of blend together. Kweller sounds so subdued in his efforts, that the album just drags on. An artist who was one instantly

infectious, talented, and unique, now seems kind of muddled in his own mediocrity.

Kweller's not a kid anymore. His efforts don't seem more mature, just a bit more stilted. His lyrics show a Peter Pan syndrome struggle, but lines like, "I want to kill this man/But he turned around and ran/I'll kill him with Karate/That I learned in Japan," sound a bit more pathetic than poetic.

Kweller seems to believe that the thing that was immature about his songwriting in the past was that it was fun to listen to. Well, he's cutting off his nose to spite his face. Gone are the elements that made him original, now he just trails on obnoxiously on songs like the first single "The Rules" and "Ann Disaster." It's a false appraisal that leads to a disappointing follow up.

—Maany Peyvan

Musiq (Soulchild)—
Soulstar
Def Soul
December 9, 2003



Musiq (Soulchild) is one of "neo-soul's" first artists. With two solid albums to his name, his third and newest, *Soulstar*, solidifies his position as one of the genre's finest acts as well. The big draw to Musiq, besides his genuinely warm vocals (unlike many so-called modern R&B acts), is his spiritual yet down to earth attitude.

With strong influences ranging from Stevie Wonder to Sly and the Family Stone, the soul child's sound is far from the superficial borderline pornographic shouts of R. Kelly etc. In fact, the Def Soul artist's tone is far more akin to latter day soul heroes like Marvin Gaye than anything that's been released in the last two decades under the façade of Rhythm and Blues.

With *Soulstar*, Musiq defines what his neo-soul compatriots have been searching for in the last five years.

All of the tracks on this LP are pretty decent, but the standouts are "Womanopoly," a cover of the Rolling Stone's classic "Miss You," and "Moment in Life," which is reminiscent of another fine neo-soul album, Common's *Electric Circus*. "Womanopoly" uses a sweet bass/string arrangement that makes it easy fodder for club remixes, as well as clever lyrics relating a young woman's struggle to Monopoly (the board game).

For the cover of "Miss You," Musiq picks up a 4/4 house beat with a clap snare that immediately give the track an upbeat dance feel, and then he couples the beat with a minimal guitar part similar to the original; his beautiful pipes do the rest and put tons of a heart into a song that's hard to improve upon.

Cee-lo and Kindred the Family Soul join in on the following track "Moment in Life." The track is a pure neo-soul jam that sounds very similar to Common's "New Wave," although the comparisons in no way hurt this song. There's not too much more to say about the other tracks on the album, because truth be told, they're all pretty strong and show off a mature and complete side to Musiq.

—John Lichtefeld

HSO Chamber groups perform Dvorak

BY JANICE MIN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

On Sunday afternoon, the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra Chamber groups performed in the Second Decade Society Room of the Mattin Center, playing various selections by Antonin Dvorák, Francis Poulenc, Edouard Lalo, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Giuseppe Verdi. The atmosphere was light and informal, and the audience was a combination of about 50 locals and Hopkins students. It was an entertaining performance.

The JHU Flute Choir performed *Symphony from the New World*, No. 9, Opus 95 by Antonin Dvorák as the first piece of the concert. The second flute ensemble consisted of five flutists, four females and one male, that performed *Triumphal March* from "Aida" by Giuseppe Verdi, a light and cheery processional song, very similar to music one would expect to hear from a carousel.

After the JHU Flute Choir, there were four more ensembles ranging from four to 11 musicians. The songs performed during these four performances were: Quartet No. 2 for Piano and Strings in g minor, Opus 45 by Gabriel Fauré; *Symphonie Espagnole*, Opus 21 by Edouard Lalo; Quintet for Piano and Winds in Eb Major, K. 452 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and *Suite Francaise* by Francis Poulenc.

The performance for the Quartet No. 2 for Piano and Strings in g minor, Opus 45 was especially impressive. The group was made up of violinist Charlotte Chung, violist John Carter, cellist Tegan Machnich, and pianist Barbara Le Lievre Kemp. The precision with which they played was impeccable, never missing a beat, the executions of the variations of the songs very precise. The way in which they handled the crescendos and decrescendos in the piece were especially impressive, adding more liveliness and a sense of tragedy into the piece. Their passion for music was evident as each took turns to play solos. Barbara Le Lievre bal-



Charlotte Chung, a violinist trained in Hong Kong, solos with the Johns Hopkins Symphony chamber groups.

anced the piece as the accompanist by using the lower octaves of the keyboard to create a dark, dramatic sound as the background, and then moved back to the center or higher octaves of the keyboard to create the rolling, melodic sounds of the piece.

Impressed by the group's performance, I was able to talk to Charlotte Chung, a freshman and the violinist in the quartet. She informed me that the group started practicing early this year in February, the rehearsals especially intensive during the last few days before the performance on Sunday. Her experiences with music started in Hong Kong at the early age of four. She trained at the Yip's Children's Music Center where she was a member of both the Hong Kong

Children's Symphony and Choir, a largely concert-oriented musical group. She acted as the concert mistress for two years before coming to Johns Hopkins, and has played solo concerts in Hong Kong.

Musicians of her caliber seem to be what makes the Johns Hopkins Symphony Chamber Orchestra a good and

cheap way to spend a Sunday afternoon by yourself or with a friend.

For those interested, there are more opportunities to hear the Hopkins Symphony Concerts within the upcoming Saturdays with performances including the *Ballet Suite* from "Billy the Kid" by Aaron Copland, and *Requiem* by Mozart.

What's your specialty?

Is it hip-hop?

burlesque theater?

finger-painting?

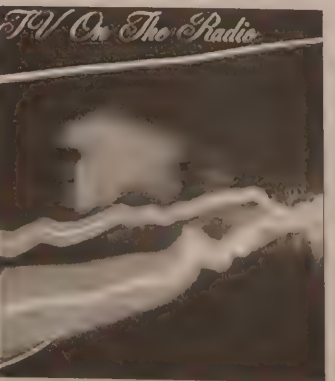
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ARTS

section!

TV On The Radio—
Desperate Youth,
Bloodthirsty Babes
Touch & Go
March 9, 2004



Brooklyn-based trio TV On The Radio are a good example of what can happen when you stick a bunch of art school students in loft apartments in the same neighborhood. The ideas get passed around faster than the drugs do. People experiment and work hard. Sometimes you end up with something good, like Oneida or The Victoria Lucas. Other times, it's just crap, like Blonde Redhead or the Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

Still, in a community that's so hip on being different and shocking, it's ironic how so many musicians end up stuck on the same aesthetic: some kind of post-punk, new wave, Sonic Youth-type thing, only with more electronics. TV On The Radio's debut album, *Desperate Youth, Blood Thirsty Babes*, may have the same hangups as everyone else, but their approach is fresh, and their lead singer Tunde Adebimpe is a wonderful monster of the microphone.

"The Wrong Way" starts the record with a jazzy saxophone riff that is quickly joined by a pulsing bass throb and a synthesized fuzz

that grounds the sound in the avant-garde. But when Adebimpe's buttery voice comes in singing doo-wop, along with an indie-computerized version of a swing beat, you get the idea about then that there's something different here.

The same indie-soul formula makes "Ambulance" and "Don't Love You" captivating songs, as Adebimpe croons up and down his massive range with wistful gospel and R&B sensibilities.

Lyrical, the group is sometimes defensive, and usually ironic. "I'll do some soft shoe," sings Adebimpe to a presumably white listener, "maybe teach you a little boogaloo." It's ironic still that Adebimpe is so good at this type of indie art rock. By playing his Williamsburg street-corner soul, he's beating the usual skinny white kids at their own game.

—Robbie Whelan

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



In *Prince, Julia Stiles and Luke Mably aren't as good at playing Danish royalty as they think they are.*

Prince and Me is too fluffy

BY FRANCESCA HANSEN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Do not underestimate the importance of a well-crafted girlie movie. You need the right elements: subtle but fluffy character development, a few witty lines, hot guy, cute girl and you're on the way to fine film enjoyment. Now imagine adding the nation Denmark to the picture, possibly the world's best country, and you've got all the elements of an all time fluff masterpiece.

But honestly, the only enjoyable parts of *The Prince and Me* are the sunny shots of Copenhagen. This cornball chick flick is a tedious, cheesy attempt at a fairy tale—a badly scripted, disappointingly acted *blah-script* that even Denmark couldn't save.

The basic premise of the movie is disappointing and bland: Julia Stiles is Paige Morgan, an obnoxious, grade-grubbing nerd at the University of Wisconsin, who is hoping to go to Johns Hopkins Medical School. She sticks her nose up at her mother and all her friends who are getting married early. And a theme that should sound familiar to most Hopkins kids, she "doesn't have time," to get into a relationship, a theme which is both clichéd and boring. Didn't Stiles already play the angry, anti-girl-

friend in *Ten Things I Hate About You*?

The Danish Prince "Eddie," (not a Danish name, guys), played by Luke Mably, gets inspired by a "Girls Gone Wild" video and comes over to Wisconsin (side note: Is Wisconsin actually an accurate picture of America?). The realistically Danish-looking dreamy blond comes to Wisconsin with some fun philandering in mind, and ends up with dorky Paige Morgan. The prince/working-class American farm girl fight gets dull. Besides, Morgan spends much of the movie being obnoxious to Eddie, and c'mon, what isn't to like about a Danish prince?

The flirtations and fights between the main pair—the crux of any good chick flick—are supposed to make the movie stronger, not expose the weakness of the script and general lack of acting ability. Stiles and Mably clearly have acting potential, but there is absolutely no creative exchange between them, and the screenplay is simply confusing.

Visit the scene when Eddie is supposed to secretly fall in love with Ms. Paige. He's watching her clean up chairs at the local campus bar where she is a waitress, and her favorite song comes on. Morgan takes off her shoes, yes, *takes off her shoes* and dances

barefoot to a melancholy cowboy love song. Beyond the awkwardness of having naked feet on a bar floor, Stiles has fallen a long way from *Save the Last Dance*—she looks like she's about to trip over herself. Most princes would go running.

But back to the plot, or lack thereof. Not surprisingly, nothing really happens in Wisconsin. We see some forced interaction between Eddie and Morgan's idiot redneck brothers when the prince comes home for a good ol' Thanksgiving dinner. To add insult to an already stereotyped image of America, a substantial portion of the film is devoted to lawnmower racing. Oh, but it gets much worse, as we see the prince take a few laps around the hay bales himself. Back at college, Paige and Eddie start making out in the stacks of the library. The paparazzi interrupts their necking session and Eddie's cover is blown. The shock that Paige feels must've been not from finding out that her lover boy is a sought-after prince, but a big enough *loser* to actually make out with her for the first time in the library.

Transition to Denmark. Suddenly, Morgan has decided to follow her prince, and they are engaged to be married. This would have been an interesting plot development if we had any idea who she was or what the two are like as a couple. A few minutes ago they were making out in the library and racing lawnmowers, and now she's about to be queen?

While many a girlie movie has had its share of quick transitions, it seems like the director was working too hard to make the movie flow into a *some-what* believable plot. In the process, the crucial fluff character development is missing—their relationship is almost completely ignored.

The latter half of the movie deals with possibly the most unrealistic idea of all. Paige actually seems attached to the idea of heading to dear old East Baltimore as a Hopkins medical student, so she can eventually work in third world countries for Doctors-Without-Borders. What? Paige whines her way until the end, having to choose between Third World and Denmark, the Best Country in the World. Give me a break. As one of my angry pre-med movie buddies put it, "That just *doesn't* happen!" Ask your nearest pre-med; would you rather live in the lap of luxury or in America's largest cesspool?

Now what has happened in real life is a story that is oh-so much better. This movie is based on the true story of the Danish Crown Prince Frederik and an Australian socialite, Mary Donaldson, that he picked up in 2002. The two are slated to be married on May 14, for a nationally-designated Holiday. The paparazzi coverage and publicity loops that Donaldson has had to jump through are interestingly similar to those the movie shows.

However, if anyone else enjoys playing the "oh! This is just like Denmark" game, do let me know, but I can tell you that not many people in the movie theater enjoyed the movie's subtleties. If you're interested in European royalty, you'd be better off going to any Danish news website—in addition to the categories of "breaking news," "sports" and "politics" there's a new "Wedding" section devoted entirely to the union of Frederik and Mary. Surfing the web for a real royal couple story is a better, cheaper and more heartwarming alternative for a love story than this failure of a fluff.

BSO's Rach 2 is heavy-handed

BY SASHA KOZLOV
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

This April Fool's weekend marked pianist Denis Matsuev's debut performances with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Roberto Abbado. Between Maestro Abbado's exciting, yet elegant performances of Steven Stucky's *Son et Lumiere* and Bela Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*, the focus of the evening was undoubtedly on Matsuev's performance of Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Second Concerto in C Minor*.

Originally from Irkutsk, Siberia, Denis Matsuev moved to Moscow to study in the renowned Moscow State Conservatory with the legendary Sergei Leonid Darensky. Matsuev went on to win several international competitions, until he finally won the 11th International Tchaikovsky Competition in 1998. Since then, he has given recitals around the world, in prestigious concert venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York City, and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, among others. Matsuev has performed with the Russian National Orchestra, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic, Lithuanian National Orchestra, Flemish Radio Orchestra, and Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of such conductors as Vladimir Spivakov, Mikhail Pletnev, and Vladimir Fedoseyev.

As in every performance, the execution of the opening gave the audience a subconscious feeling of what was to come. In the first nine chords of Rachmaninoff's concerto, the harmonic, rhythmic, and dynamic structure create an incredible build-up of tension. Instead of bringing the audience along on this journey from pianissimo to fortissimo in just nine measures, Matsuev had already boomed out a healthy forte by the third measure, and quickly proceeded to a harsh fortississimo by the seventh measure.

There he realized that he had nowhere left to go within the piano's capabilities, and banged out the incessant F in the bass, completely eliminating any hope of preserving even the slightest

remnants of the enigmatic nature of the composition. After a healthy trouncing of the rich arpeggios meant as a harmonically thick accompaniment to the orchestra's opening theme, Matsuev successfully brought the bass notes to the audience with a blow. You could sense the power of each one even if you weren't listening by simply watching his aggressive movements with the piano.

Although Matsuev's phrases were naturally long and winding, he interjected them with mannered accents where they obviously did not belong—a fault that was apparent whether one knows the piece or not. These heavy-handed notes splintered Rachmaninoff's polished melody line, which was frustrating. The concerto's second theme begs to be played as if it were being sung, but the soloist failed. It was a mere pity at first, as Matsuev's performance was just tainted by a few little problems, but his playing soon started to nag on the audience.

However, it's hard not to commend Denis Matsuev's technical abilities; his hands, his octaves, runs, chords—were all brilliant. The 12 years, which he claims to have spent practicing this work, were laid bare to the audience. In fact, sometimes it became obvious to the audience that he was too conscious of his abilities, and, wanting to take advantage of them, rightly deserved to flout them.

However, the way in which he chose to show off these not-so-rare-anymore abilities to the audience was to play even faster, to demonstrate that no one else can play octave runs like him. Each time he did this—in all three movements, especially in the last—he rushed the orchestra so that Maestro Abbado was no longer able to bring the soloist and orchestra together. Matsuev's technical braggadocio affected the quality of his playing, and even the most basic elements of his performance, the correct notes, suffered.

After the performance, Mr. Matsuev answered a few questions. He was apprehensive about the interview until we switched from English to Russian. When asked about his performance, he

took his time to respond. "I am never happy with myself. I have performed this concerto thousands of times, all over the world, [in places] where everyone knows every note of the concerto, and therefore it is important to find something new in it each time that I play it. This work has become almost pop music, and therefore, I play it a new way—I almost improvise. I believe that is the way that no one will get sick of it. It is a big honor to play with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, with Maestro Abbado. From the first moment, the Maestro, the orchestra and I began a great working relationship. It was easy—almost as if we all had an understanding of 'how it is supposed to be.' I believe that tonight was pretty good. I'm happy."

He went on to explain that, in addition to his classical studies, he loves to play jazz, and it is a great influence on his classical playing. As for his influences, he was quick to name "of course such pianists as Sviatoslav Richter, Emil Gilels, Vladimir Horowitz, and other Russian masters [who] had an unbelievable influence on me. From composers: probably Rachmaninoff and Liszt. Rachmaninoff was an incredible composer, a phenomenal pianist, a tremendous conductor, and an unquestionable influence upon my musical development and playing. Liszt is a separate issue—I feel like I relate to him by temperament, and the way that he approaches performance, as one can tell just by examining his compositions. His fiery, passionate personality, his romanticism—it is all mine."

Matsuev may have been, in a sense, right about his own playing: he did try to find something new in the piece, just this pursuit to be different took away from an overall message and structure of the piece as a whole. Recognizing the basic shape of the work as a whole is essential to the execution of the work, and Matsuev's failure to do so doesn't hold water as "bringing something new" to the concerto. Nevertheless, Denis Matsuev made Sergei Rachmaninoff's music ring true, and the audience shot up from their seats in a passionate applause with the final four chords.

Chorus Line dancing disappoints



JILL PERSHEL/NEWS-LETTER

The *Barnstormers'* Chorus Line had excellent singing, but fell short of producing a stellar dance routine.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1
make the director's first cut have been backstage for over an hour; surely they could change early and do something on stage during that awkward segue.

As for casting, an insufficient diversity among the actors requires a humorous but mildly distracting suspension of disbelief. Two obviously white actors claim to be Puerto Rican, another Caucasian tells us he is black. I was willing to make these imaginative jumps, but I had a much harder time allowing myself to be convinced that the characters were professional dancers.

As became clear throughout the performance, the *Barnstormers* have a number of highly talented actors and some exceptional singers. What they do not have are skilled dancers. Emily Mayer, a senior who both played the role of the choreographer and actually choreographed the show, was the only person on stage who seemed to know exactly where her arms and legs

should be positioned. With such a talented cast of singers, why choose a musical that is heavy on dance and so sparse for the singers?

Granted, the dancers are supposed to be auditioning, so some of the less graceful moments are intentional. However, this only heightens the expectation for synchronized perfection during the final number. Perhaps seeing the Sunday matinee—the last of three shows during the first weekend—increased the likelihood of small stumbles in the kick-line; I also noticed a number of scratchy and strained voices.

All dancing aside, many of the actors were able to excel in their roles. Junior Leah Miller's acerbic performance as slutty, hopped-up Sheila, the would-be prima ballerina, inspired many laughs, particularly in her rivalry with plastic Barbie doll-like Val (freshman Amanda Franecki). Another comical success was Jerome Fox as Mark, a sweetly vacant young man who delivers a hilarious musical tribute to the mysteries of puberty.

Liz Gilbert caught my attention this year during the freshmen one acts, and she hasn't disappointed me since then. As Cassie, a chorus girl who might have been a star, she projects just the right amount of vulnerability and defeatism. Also, her dance solo is better than most of the other dance performances in the show.

My favorite actor, though, was Ben Kingsland as Paul, a dancer forced to come to terms with a past full of humiliation and rejection. His stirring monologue was entirely riveting, without a doubt the best part of the production.

Simply put, *A Chorus Line* highlights the weaknesses of an otherwise talented cast, forcing highly professional actors to appear amateurish and unpolished. Let's hope this talented troupe doesn't make the same mistake twice.

A *Chorus Line* will run this Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Swinnow Theatre at the Martin Center. Student tickets cost \$5, and general admission is \$7.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.DR.DK/BRYLLUP

Danish Crown Prince Frederik will soon marry an Australian socialite.

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ARIES: (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)
It is in your best interest to leave your schoolwork for the last minute. Remember, if you leave it for the last minute, it only takes a minute.



TAURUS: (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
Rocks and stones are pretty much the same thing. If you know the difference then pat yourself on the back. Oh yeah, something bad will happen.



GEMINI: (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
That tired look in your eye can only mean one thing: you were having sex last night. Nothing to worry about, you're already going to hell.



CANCER: (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
Jews are clearly the chosen people. Just not in this eight-day period. Lots of matzah means lots of constipation. Eat prunes.



LEO: (JULY 23-AUGUST 22)
Can it get any worse than being a Leo? Your Hopkins friends can't do anything because your birthday is in the summer. Eat ice cream.



VIRGO: (AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22)
Miss Piggy is our favorite. That being said, I heard a melody about her emulating Janet Jackson. If you have that on your computer, delete it.



LIBRA: (SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22)
All the leaves are brown and the sky is gray, and it's the spring time. What is up with this weather? Move to California before it is too late.



SCORPIO: (OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21)
Their food sucks. Yes, Sodexho, food sucks. When you get over the rancid stomach virus you're going to get, remember, you can't spell 'Sodexho' without 'ho.'



SAGITTARIUS: (NOVEMBER 22 - DEC. 21)
Classes are a lot more fun when you're on antidepressants. But the giddiness is short-lived and there is a long withdrawal period. Have fun taking pictures.



CAPRICORN: (DEC. 23 - JANUARY 19)
Because you're an idiot, you have to be a capricorn. You will make a decision this week that you will regret. Live in fear — astrologers hate Capricorns.

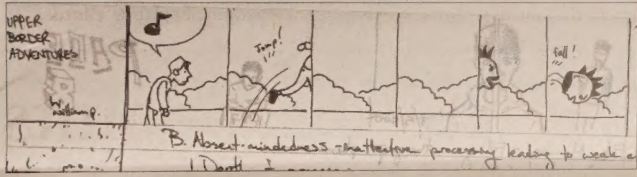
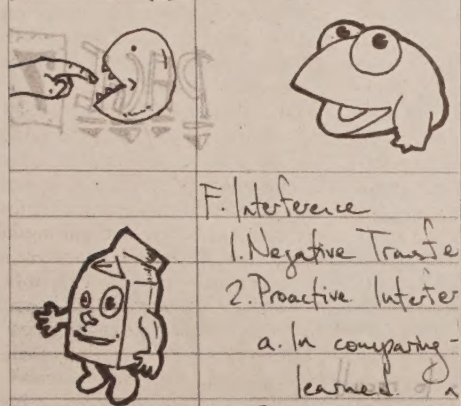


AQUARIUS: (JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18)
Of all the colors in the world, pink is not yours. Do us all a favor because the 'pepto bismol look' says two things: prissy and 1985.



PISCES: (FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20)
Passover is the festival lights. Wait a second, that's Chanukah. Like Passover there will be no presents because a loved one will forget about you. Astrology is harsh.

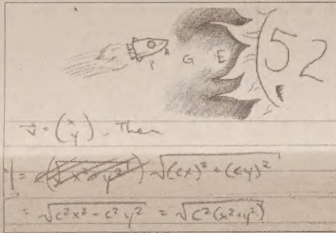
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Passover Festivity Madness

Two weeks ago I didn't have the Internet. Now, I don't have any bread. Of course, it's not Resnet's fault this time. I think they got tired of stealing my bread months ago. No, there's something much more sinister at work here, something dark and cruel, something purely sadistic, something... Jewish.

Oh yeah, baby, it's Passover time. That's right, it's Passover — the time when Jews all over the world get together and totally screw over the bread industry. Now, for those who don't know the entire story of Passover by heart (a.k.a. anti-semites), this may seem like a really strange thing to do. After all, what's wrong with bread? Why not refrain from eating something less tasty, like broccoli, or industrial strength drain cleaner? And what the hell is a "seder"? Is that like the Hebrew version of a jihad?

Well, the truth is, if you want to understand Passover, you've gotta know the story. So, without further ado: THE STORY OF PASSOVER

Okay, so the story of Passover takes place in 500 million B.C. or something. Back then, all the Jews in the world lived in Egypt. The whole place was like a Cohen family reunion. And, just as it is today, Egypt was ruled by a cruel and domineering pharaoh, who was known as King Pharaoh (or, to his closest friends, Master P). Anyway, this Pharaoh guy treated the Jews like total crap, making them his slaves, forcing them to build pyramids, ordering their male children to be killed, etc. As you'd expect, the Jews weren't too happy about this. It's tough to own the media when you're busy being whipped by Egyptians. However, they could do nothing: nobody dared disobey the Pharaoh. It seemed like the Jews were doomed to be slaves forever.

Enter Moses. Moses was Jewish and male, and since the pharaoh had ordered all Jewish male children to be killed, baby Moses didn't seem to have a bright future ahead of him. His mother, deciding she had to take action, figured that the best idea was to leave Moses floating in a basket on the Nile River. Apparently this is the most efficient way to save a baby. Anyway, King Pharaoh's daughter happened to

find baby Moses, and decided to adopt him.

Years later, when Moses was all grown up, he saw a Jew being beaten by an Egyptian taskmaster. Moses became angry and opened up a can of kosher whoop-ass on the Egyptian. Unfortunately, his dosage of whoop-ass was a bit too strong, and the Egyptian died. At first, Moses decided to hire Johnny Cochran and hope for the best. However, after the defense of "If the Jew doesn't fit, you must acquit" failed miserably, Moses knew he had to flee to the wilderness, in a white Ford Bronco.

At this point, you're probably thinking: "Man, that was a dumb story. What does that have to do with Passover?" Well, I'm not done yet. So shut up.

Anyway, in the wilderness, Moses lived as a shepherd. One day, while looking for a lost sheep, Moses came across a burning bush. However, for some odd reason, this bush didn't burn up. Suddenly, Moses heard a voice coming from the bush. It was the voice of God. And it sounded strangely like James Earl Jones.

MATTDIAMOND

FRESHMEN FUNNIES

"Moses, it is I, your God," said God. "Cool, what's up, G," said Moses. "Please stop calling me that," said God.

"Sorry," said Moses. "You know, that Smokey The Bear jackass tried to put me out three times," said God.

"Yeah, I know. Why don't you smite him already?"

"I dunno, he's good for teaching kids about fire safety."

"Ah, okay."

"Anyway, I have a mission for you, Moses. I need you to go back to Egypt and free the Jews."

"But why?"

"Because the Jews are suffering and they need your help. Plus, you're getting a little too friendly with the sheep."

And so Moses gave up the whole shepherd business and returned to Egypt. Upon his return, he went straight

to King Pharaoh and demanded that the Jews be freed. But the Pharaoh would not be swayed.

"What are you gonna do about it?" sneered King Pharaoh. "Unleash a series of increasingly severe and ultimately devastating plagues!"

And so Moses unleashed the now-infamous Ten Plagues, which consisted of blood, frogs, vermin, wild beasts, pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and the slaying of the first-born son. An eleventh plague, bad hair day, was left out after being deemed "not plague-ish enough."

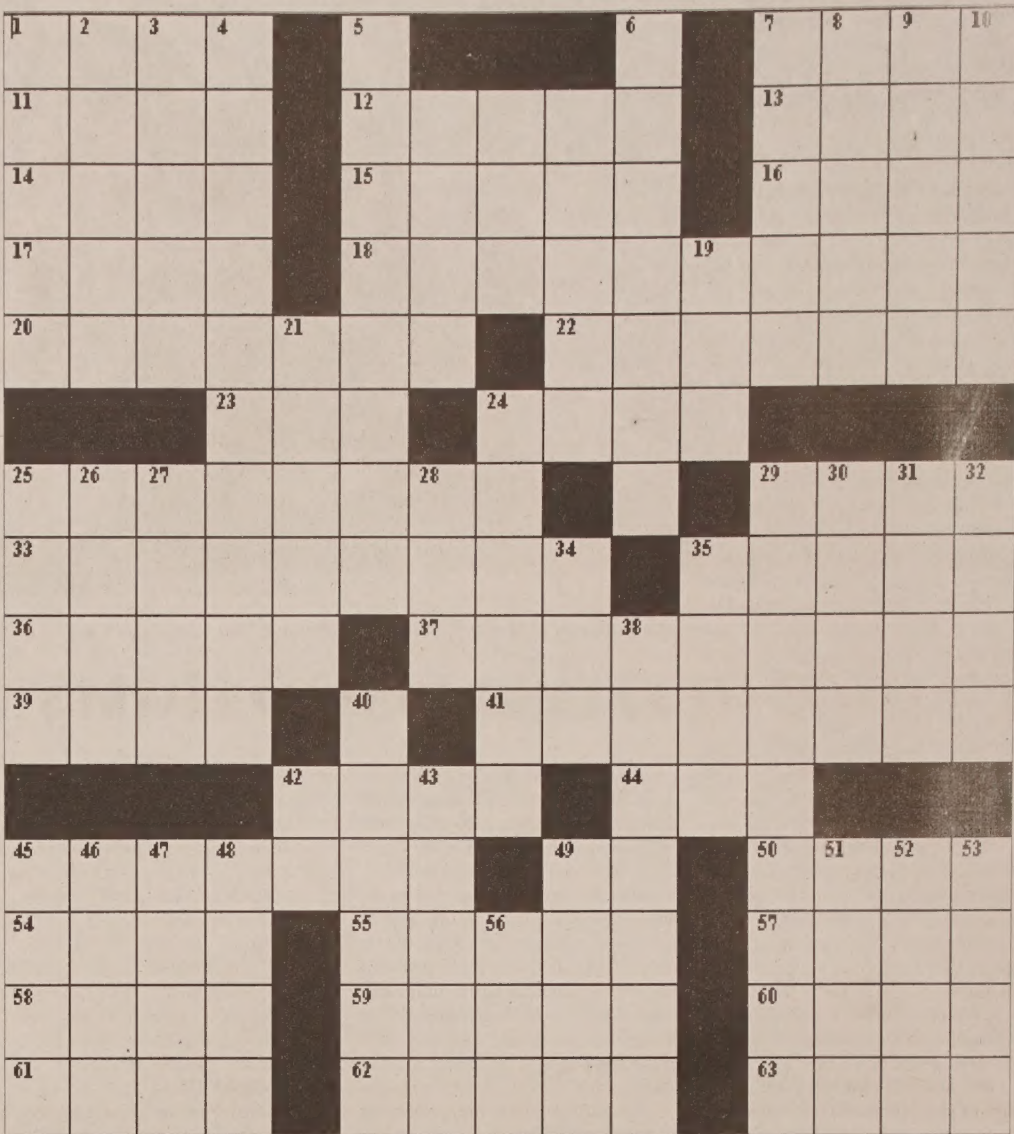
The last plague, the slaying of the first-born son, turned out to be the most complicated. You see, the point of the last plague was to kill just the non-Jewish first-born, not all of them. That would've been the dumbest plague ever. So Moses had to come up with a way of indicating which houses the Angel of Death should skip, since I guess the guy was too lazy to use a damn map. The Jews ended up painting marks on their doors with lamb's blood to indicate that their houses should be "passed over," which is why the holiday is called "Passover" (which, incidentally, is a vast improvement over the original name, "The First-Born Slaughter Festival").

After all these terrible plagues, King Pharaoh finally gave in and freed the Jews. However, the Jews knew that Pharaoh might change his mind at any moment, so they had to hurry. Since they didn't have time to let the dough rise, they had to eat unleavened bread. And that's why we only eat unleavened bread, or "matzah," during Passover. To remind ourselves that yeast is for losers.

So anyway, after the Jews left, King Pharaoh was like, "Man, I wish I had some Jews." So he took his army and started chasing after them. Meanwhile, Moses and the Jews found themselves on the bank of the sea, with no apparent way to cross it. With Pharaoh's army closing in quickly, things got pretty tense. Then, at the last minute, God was like, "oh yeah, sorry, I zoned out for a second there," and parted the waters of the Red Sea. As the last of the Jews reached the other side, God unperturbed the waters, drowning all of Pharaoh's men.

Crossword: Scientific Quotes

by Emily Nalven



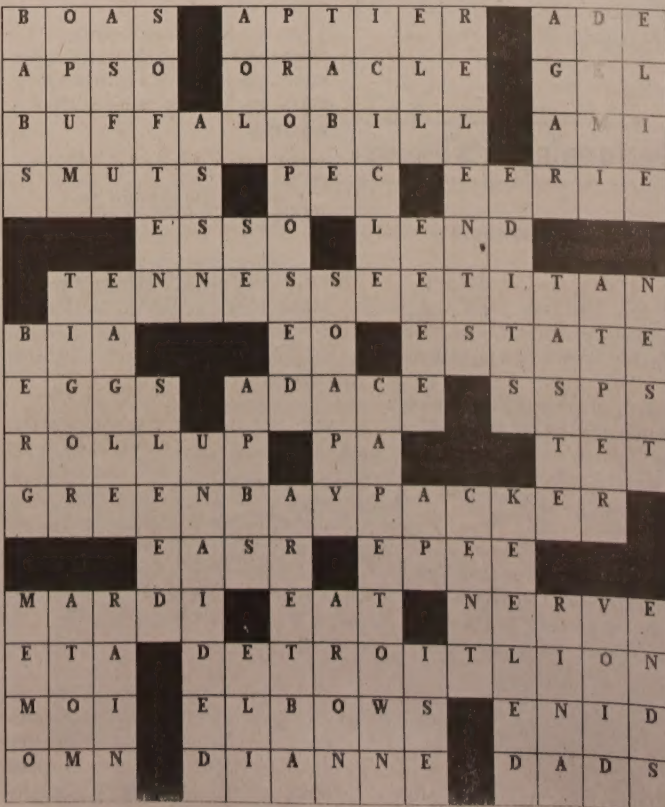
Across

- a group made for older people (abbr)
- articles of clothing men wear when they dress up
- Chaucer's word for grass
- supreme, especially, particularly
- orange county, Montana (abbr)
- depend (with on)
- ape or copy
- What comes next?: Costa or Puerto
- major record label or heroic, larger-than-life
- START OF A QUOTE by Steven Wright
- all of the time, it never stops, daily (two words)
- one - two in Bavaria
- an - of corn
- partner of rave
- MIDDLE OF A QUOTE
- someone who thinks that she or he is too good for someone else
- a complete airhead, someone who is unbelievably dense (two words)
- place to go skiing
- scents, aromas, smells
- document that proves you are the owner of a house or a car (two words)
- fix up, repair
- looking through some else's things
- famous Latin 101 verb conjugation
- MIDDLE OF A QUOTE

Down

- MIDDLE OF A QUOTE
- MIDDLE OF A QUOTE
- place to bake things
- religious image or image on a computer screen
- rhymes with actor William Dafoe's name
- clean, sweep
- valley girl expression made famous by its usage in the movie Clueless
- place where major events are held
- someone who always says no or is always against things is one of these
- nip, nil, zilch
- to drive, guide, maneuver or turn
- what dogs pull in the Iditarod race
- Name for the East German police
- hint (abbr)
- writer of James and the Giant Peach (plural)
- take the exam again
- matter is made of this (singular)
- verb for what is done on a horse (past tense)
- elite British school
- done away with
- hit away (two words and plural)
- not a perfect circle component (two words)
- ajar
- Pop-saying: "tip of the ice"
- Buddha like
- shortened word for sponge
- one of ours equals seven of this (two words)
- single celled organisms
- commercial
- good advertisement pictures (two words)
- actress who is currently dating Pop-Star Justin Timberlake
- to see in Paris
- information (abbr)
- Pop saying: "I've got a ___ to pick with you"
- small container that is usually used for holding an alchemist's needs
- fencing sword
- dork, loser, someone who is not a popular kid
- cost to participate

SOLUTIONS TO THE LAST PUZZLE



"Whoops," said God. After that, the Jews wandered around in the desert for forty years, during which they had many amusing and zany adventures. The end.

To commemorate the freedom of our people, we Jews get together on Passover and have a seder, which is Hebrew for "order," as in "I order you to sit at a table and listen to your relatives blab on and on about really boring crap." The whole point of the seder is to recount the story of Passover, while using a whole lot of food-related metaphors, such as "this salt water represents the tears of the Hebrews," "this bitter herb represents the bitterness of slavery," and "this gigantic chunk of whale blubber represents the abundance of fat people."

In the end, the story of Passover is an important one, not because the Jews gained their freedom or because miracles happened. No, Passover is important because the Jews used scare tactics to get what they wanted. The Bible proves it, people: terrorism works.

On that note, Happy Passover.

Matt Diamond is a fine piece of matzah and can be contacted at PianoMattD@aol.com.

CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

Mary J. and Meth to rap in Baltimore

Looking to get off campus for an evening? In the upcoming week, venues in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. areas are offering a wide variety of live performances to meet the entertainment needs of almost any college student.

Despite the end of his classic sitcom *Seinfeld* in the late '90s, Jerry Seinfeld continues to make his presence known on the live stage. Seinfeld will make a stop on his comedy tour at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, performing his stand-up act at 7 p.m. and again at 9:30 p.m. on the evenings of Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10. Tickets range in price from \$45 to \$75 and may be purchased through Ticketmaster at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

The top female voices of pop, hip-hop and R&B unite for the Ladies First Tour 2004. Beyonce, Alicia Keys, Missy Elliott and Tamia will share the stage at the MCI Center in Washington, D.C. on the evening of Sunday, April 11 at 7 p.m. Tickets are currently available through Ticketmaster for \$67 to \$77.

R&B singer Mary J. Blige will be touring in the area in support of her latest album, *Love & Life*, featuring the singles *Not Today* and *It's a Wrap*. She'll stop at the Lyric Opera House in Baltimore on Monday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Finally, rapper Method Man, with guest Arcane, will visit Towson this week, with a performance at the Recher Theatre on Tuesday, April 13. His month-long "Method Man for President" Tour intends to build anticipation for his newest album, *Tical 0: The Prequel*, which is scheduled for release on May 18. Doors to the show open at 7 p.m., and tickets may be purchased through Ticketmaster or at the theater's box office.

—Ellen Minnihan



The big band sound will fill the Glass Pavillion on Sunday as the J Street Jumpers perform live at 4 p.m.

J Street Jumpers Swing into Hopkins

If you want to relive the '30s, '40s and '50s, grab your friends and head down to the Glass Pavilion in Levering this Sunday, April 11, at 4 p.m. to see The J Street Jumpers perform.

The group combines the classic swing and jump blues to form one of the most popular swing bands on the East Coast. The Jumpers have looked to the music of Count Basie, Buddy Johnson, Fat Domino and Dinah Washington to get inspiration to form their own brand of modern swing music.

The Jumpers base themselves out of the Washington, D.C. area, where they have become one of the hottest swing bands. The city's music community honored them in 2003 with the title of Best Big Band for the sixth year in a row at the Washington Area Music Association (WAMA) Wammie Awards. Other WAMA awards that they have received include Swing Recording and Best Jazz. In addition, *The Washington Post* named the Jumpers' CD *Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby* to their 1998 list of favorite local CDs.

In the early '90s, saxophonist Charlie Hubel founded the group, and since then they have performed in a wide variety of clubs, halls and ballrooms. They received the honor of playing for former President Bill Clinton and former First Lady Hillary Clinton at The White House's annual dinner for Governors of the States and Territories.

Other performances have included The Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage and the Inaugural Ball at the Natural History Museum for President George W. Bush.

The J Street Jumpers' own Web site boasts, "Their extensive repertoire keeps even the most demanding audience on the floor and begging for more. The infectious beat is enhanced by their showmanship and tremendous soloists."

Sunday's event is being sponsored by the Center for Social Concern. Tickets are \$15 if ordered in advance; add \$2 for each ticket purchased on the day of the performance. This is not a performance to miss, and seeing that ticket prices are bound to rise, grab your tickets fast.

For more information about this event, call (443) 287-9900. For more information about the J Street Jumpers, visit their official Web site at <http://www.jstreetjumpers.com>.

—Sarah Rivard

Film Fest takes over Shriver

The 7th annual Johns Hopkins Film Festival falls this year from Thursday, April 8 to Sunday, April 11, 2004. Organized by the Johns Hopkins Film Society, the non-profit showcase provides opportunities for the community to view documentaries, features and short films shown on the festival circuit and on the local, national and international levels.

The Fest kicks off on Thursday at 11 p.m. with the film *I Shot Andy Warhol*, based on the life of Valerie Solanas, feminist writer of *The SCUM Manifesto*. Directed by Mary Harron of *American Psycho*, the film depicts '60s pop-culture. The showing is at Shriver Hall, also known as the largest screening facility in Maryland.

On Friday, shows start at 5 p.m., with films concerning a family-owned Cuban auto shop, various animated shorts, a documentary of four drag queens in the 2003 Miss North Carolina UsofA Drag Pageant and finally, a more fictitious story of Brian Slade, starring Christian Bale.

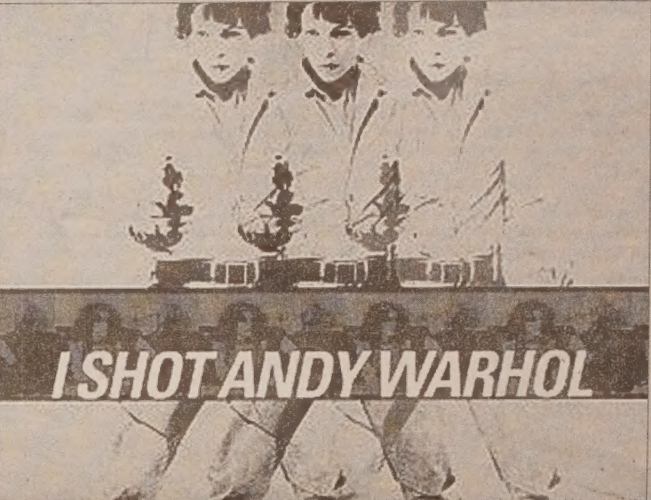
Saturday keeps the showcase heating up with experimental shorts programs featuring Kafka and Gestalt, a four-minute film about a girl in a modern fairy tale, a three-minute showing of Pope Leo electrocuting an elephant and a music-based, computer and lights show.

If you can't get to see all of the films, the closing viewing covers just that. Following a student showcase and free show at 5:30 p.m., festival highlights will be shown at 7 p.m. to present the film's "tastiest nuggets."

The JHU Film Society is a student-run organization in charge of the film festival, taking eight months to prepare for the four-day event. They also offer the Intercession Guerilla Film Production course and publish the on-campus film journal, *Frame of Reference*.

Tickets for the event are \$3 per show, \$5 for a day pass or \$15 for the entire festival. JHU affiliates — meaning students, faculty and employees — are invited to attend the Fest for free. For more information and a full schedule of viewings, check out <http://www.jhu.edu/~jhufilm/fest/index.html>, call (410) 235-8719 or contact SongHia@juno.com.

—Lauren Stewart



The film I Shot Andy Warhol is one of the many films at the Film Fest.

Lectures

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

2 p.m. The Second Sunday Spotlight Talks features Huiwen Lu, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow for Asian Art, talking on "Imperial Treasures of 18th Century China" at The Walters Art Museum. Call (410) 547-9000 for details.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

12 p.m. Join Carl Elefante, the designer for the Peabody Institute's dramatic new showcase, as he discusses the difficult renovation, at the Berman Auditorium of the Johns Hopkins Downtown Center. Call (410) 962-0241 for details.

Performing Arts Events

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

7 p.m. Eat great food and watch amazing performances at the SASH Spring Show in the Glass Pavilion.

8 p.m. Check out the production of *Descent Into Acceptance*, a DSAGA production of a play written by a Peabody student, at the Arellano Theater.

8 p.m. Come see *The Barnstormers* present "A Chorus Line," their version of one of Broadway's longest running shows, at the Swirnow Theater of the Mattin Center.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

8 p.m. Check out the production of

Descent Into Acceptance, a DSAGA production of a play written by a Peabody student, at the Arellano Theater.

8 p.m. Come see *The Barnstormers* present *A Chorus Line*, their version of one of Broadway's longest running shows, at the Swirnow Theater of the Mattin Center.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

2 p.m. Come see *The Barnstormers* present *A Chorus Line*, their version of one of Broadway's longest running shows, at the Swirnow Theater of the Mattin Center.

4 p.m. *The J Street Jumpers*, one of the East Coast's most popular swing bands, will play at Shriver Hall Auditorium. Call (410) 516-7157 for details.

8 p.m. Check out the production of *Descent Into Acceptance*, a DSAGA production of a play written by a Peabody student, at the Arellano Theater.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

8 p.m. See Inga Muscio, feminist activist and author of *Cunt: A Declaration of Independence*, as part of Awareness Days 2004 in the Great Hall in Levering.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

12:15-12:45 p.m. Join the Tuesday Music Series to hear classical music downtown with Lisa Vaupel on violin at Old Saint Paul's Church. Call (410) 685-3404 for details.

7:30 p.m. See Jane Monheit and The Manhattan Transfer. One of the hottest young jazz singers will be the opening act to the Grammy winning group at the Joeph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. Call (410) 783-8170 for details.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

12 p.m. Join Carl Elefante, the designer for the Peabody Institute's dramatic new showcase as he discusses the difficult renovation, at the Berman Auditorium of the Johns Hopkins

CALENDAR

APR 08

APRIL 8 TO 15

Downtown Center. Call (410) 962-0241 for details.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

12 p.m. See the Prix D'Ètè Recital, a program featuring the winning works of the composition competition, established by Walter Summer, at the Peabody Institute's Friedberg Hall. Call (410) 659-8100 x2 for details.

8-11 p.m. Check out *Features @ Notre Maison*, a poetic sit featuring Kuroji at 18 West 25th St. Call (410) 235-4773 for details.

Visual Art Events

The Baltimore Museum of Art is currently showing an exhibit on *Baltimore Album Quilts* through May 5. The quilts were created between 1845 and 1855 and contain hand-sewn squares that reveal a look into the history of Baltimore. *A Grand Legacy: Five Centuries of European Art* is a collection of 15th through 19th-century European masterpieces. It includes pieces by Botticelli, Rembrandt, Durer, Rodin and van Dyck. *Picasso: Surrealism and the War Years* is an exhibit that explores Picasso's response to the horrors of war. The Baltimore Museum of Art is located at 10 Art Museum Dr. For more information, call (410) 396-7100.

The Walters Art Museum is showing an exhibition on *Art of the Ancient Americas*, covering works of ancient American cultures, including Olmec, Teotihuacan, Maya, Aztec and Inca. The Walters is located at 600 N. Charles St. For more information, call (410) 547-9000.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

6:30 p.m. *Angellfall Studios* hosts a weekly college night every Thursday night. Come check out the exhibits and enjoy the 30 percent discount on beer, wine, nonalcoholic drinks and food. The studio at 2936 Remington Ave. is open until 11 p.m. For more information, visit <http://angellfallstudios.com>.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

5-8 p.m. See the MFA Thesis II Exhibition showcasing works by graduating master of fine arts degree students in painting, sculpture, photography, digital imaging and more at the Maryland Institute College of Art. Call (410) 225-2300 for details.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

1-3:45 p.m. See the MFA Thesis II Exhibition showcasing works by graduating Master of Fine Arts de-

gree students in painting, sculpture, photography, digital imaging and more at the Maryland Institute College of Art. Call (410) 225-2300 for details.

Religious and Spiritual Events

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

6 p.m. *Newman Night* is a free dinner and fun activity provided by the Catholic Community at Hopkins every Thursday night. The Newman House is located at 2941 N. Charles St. For more information, check out their Web site at <http://www.catholic.jhu.edu>.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

1:15 p.m. *Jumu'a Prayers* are held weekly in the Upper Level of the Interfaith Center. For more information on these Islamic prayers, visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~jhumso>.

Sunset: *Shabbat Services* — Orthodox services will take place in the K, while Conservative and Reform services will take place in the Interfaith Center. Services will be followed by dinner at the Interfaith Center. For more information, e-mail jsa@jhu.edu.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

9:30 a.m. *Shabbat Services* will be held in the K, followed by lunch. For more information, e-mail jsa@jhu.edu.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

11 a.m. *Catholic Mass* led by Rev. Tom Ryan takes place each Sunday in the Interfaith Center. For more information, visit <http://www.catholic.jhu.edu>. 11 a.m. *Aarthi* is held every Sunday in the Lower Level of the Interfaith Center. For more information, contact the Hindu Student Council at thsc@jhu.edu.

1 p.m. *Stepping Stones Services* are

held weekly in the Interfaith Center at 1 p.m. on Sundays.

8 p.m. *College Contemporary Worship Service* is held each Sunday night at the University Baptist Church, located at 3501 N. Charles St.

Films

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

7 p.m. *About Baghdad*, a new documentary film, will be screened in Schaffler Auditorium in Bloomberg Hall.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

5 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Check out the 7th Annual Johns Hopkins Film Festival with documentaries, features and short films that have been hitting the festival circuits as well as little seen local, national, and international films at Shriver Hall.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

1 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Check out the 7th Annual Johns Hopkins Film Festival with documentaries, features and short films that have been hitting the festival circuits, as well as little seen local, national and international films at Shriver Hall.

7 p.m. *Animation Club* invites you to see some of the greatest new and classic animation films to come out of Japan today in Shaffer 3. For more information, contact Oliver Oberg at ollie@jhu.edu or visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~anime>.

7:30 p.m. *Mani Ratnam's 'Iruvar'* The Duo will be showing in Shaffer 3. This event is sponsored by Tarang. For more information, visit <http://www.tarangjhu.org>.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

3 p.m.-8 p.m. Check out the 7th An-

CALENDAR

CONCERT AND MOVIE LISTINGS

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

Clubs

8 p.m. **Wailers** will perform at The Recher Theatre in Towson.
8 p.m. **Caveman with Barefoot Manner** and **WTMD's Addy's After Party** will perform at the Funk Box.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Concerts

7 p.m. **Jagermeister Music Tour: Slipknot with Fear Factory and Chimaira** will perform at The Nation in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.
7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. **Jerry Seinfeld** will perform at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.
8 p.m. **Bhangra Blowout Launch** will take place at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.
8 p.m. **Good Deale Bluegrass Band** will perform at Avalon Theatre in Easton, Md. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.
8 p.m. **Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam** will take place at the Hippodrome Performing Arts Center. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

Clubs

8 p.m. **Mike Doughty of Soul Coughing** with **Matt Hutchinson** will perform at the Funk Box.
8 p.m. **Marwood** will perform at the Vault.
8 p.m. **HTD, Cypher, Seven.62, and Tribal** will perform at The Recher Theatre in Towson.
9:30 p.m. **The Shakedown**s will perform at the Black Cat in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

Concerts

7 p.m. **Bhangra Blowout** will take place at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.
7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. **Jerry Seinfeld** will perform at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.
9 p.m. **Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam** will take place at the Hippodrome Performing Arts Center. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

Clubs

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

Concerts

8 p.m. **Can't Hang** and **VDB** will perform at The Recher Theatre in Towson.
8 p.m. **Solarcult, Another Time** and **Southgate** will perform at The Vault.
9 p.m. **The Bridge with Bluestring** will perform at the Funk Box.

Clubs

8 p.m. **Eek a Mouse with Granola Funk Express** will perform at the Funk Box.
8 p.m. **Particle** will perform at The Recher Theatre in Towson.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

Concerts

7:30 p.m. **Mary J. Blige** will perform at the Lyric Opera House. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Concerts

7:30 p.m. **Mary J. Blige** will perform at the Lyric Opera House. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

Concerts

6 p.m. **Sevendust** will perform at the Thunderdome. For more information, visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

SHOWTIMES FOR AMC TOWSON COMMONS 8 FOR FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

The Alamo

Rated (PG-13)- 2 hrs. 17 min.
1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 10:20 p.m.

The Passion of The Christ

Rated (R)- 2 hrs. 6 min.
10 p.m.

Walking Tall

Rated (PG-13)- 1 hr. 27 min.
1:20 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:40 p.m., 8 p.m., 10:10 p.m.

Home on the Range

Rated (PG)- 1 hr. 16 min.
1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.

Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed

Rated (PG)- 1 hr. 33 min.
1:10 p.m., 3:20 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m.

The Prince and Me

Rated (PG)- 1 hr. 51 min.
1:30 p.m., 4:20 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:50 p.m.

The Whole Ten Yards

Rated (PG-13)- 1 hr. 39 min.
2 p.m., 4:50 p.m., 7:50 p.m., 10:15 p.m.

The Girl Next Door

Rated (R)- 1 hr. 49 min.
1:50 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 7:20 p.m., 9:55 p.m.

Hellboy

Rated (PG- 13)- 1hr. 52 min.
1:40 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m.

The Passion of The Christ

Rated (R)- 2 hrs. 6 min.
1:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7:10 p.m.

SHOWTIMES FOR THE CHARLES THEATRE FOR FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Monsieur Ibrahim

Rated (R)- 1 hr. 35 min.
12 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 7:20 p.m., 9:20 p.m.

Eternal Sunshine of The Spotless Mind

Rated (R)
12:15 p.m., 2:45 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:45 p.m.

Intermission

Rated (R)- 1 hr. 45 min.
12:10 p.m., 2:20 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.

The Company

Rated (PG-13)- 1 hr. 52 min.
12:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.

— Compiled by Sarah Rivard

nual Johns Hopkins Film Festival with documentaries, features, and short films that have been hitting the festival circuits as well as little seen local, national and international films at Shriver Hall.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

8 p.m. Check out the screening and discussion of **Secretary**, a film that explores s/m sexuality, in Shaffer 3.

Workshops

MONDAY, APRIL 12

4:30 p.m. See the Pennsylvania College of Optometry meeting in 161 Mattin Hall.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

8 p.m. Join the **Sexuality in Latino Culture** workshop with guest speaker Louis Moreno, a diversity educator, at the Great Hall in Levering.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

5 p.m. See the **What Can You Do With a Major in Engineering? Information Session** in Mattin 162 to meet alumni from these majors and explore a few of the career options that are available. Light refreshments will be included.

5 p.m. See the **What Can You Do With a Major in History? Information Session** in Mattin 160 to meet alumni from these majors and explore a few of the career options that are available. Light refreshments will be included.

5 p.m. See the **What Can You Do With a Major in Psychological and Brain Sciences? Information Session** in the Career Center to meet alumni from these majors and explore a few of the career options that are available. Light refreshments will be included.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

4:30 p.m. Don't miss the **Pre-Law Information Meeting** for 2004-2005 applicants in Mergenthaler 111.

7 p.m. See **Playing for Your Next**

Team: A Workshop for Student-Athletes, an information session covering why many employers like to hire student-athletes and how to market the skills learned while being on an athletic team. This will be at the Recreation Center's Classroom.

Miscellaneous Events

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

5 p.m. **The National Aquarium in Baltimore** offers a discounted admission of \$5 every Friday after 5 p.m. For more information, call (410) 567-3845.

8 p.m. **The Maryland Space Grant Observatory**, located in Bloomberg Center, offers you a free chance to look at the solar system with its telescopes, weather permitting. Call (410) 516-6525 for weather updates and observing conditions before you hike up to Bloomberg.

10 p.m. **Coffee Grounds** takes place every Friday night in the Mattin Center Silk Road Cafe. Come out for the free Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee, and stay for the fun

evening activity.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

10 a.m. **SALUD Student Leadership Conference** will take place in the Mattin Center all day. For more information visit <http://www.jhu.edu/salud>.

12 p.m. Join **The Fell's Point Maritime History Tour**. This walking tour will show you the homes and businesses of ship captains and merchants in this 18th, 19th and early 20th century historic district and maritime workingman's community. It begins at the Fell's Point Visitor Center. Please call (410) 675-6750 for details.

3:30 p.m. Join the **Poker Tournament** in the AMR Multipurpose Room.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

11 a.m. If you aren't going home this weekend, come join the **Inner Harbor Easter Celebration**, a day of family entertainment with street performers, the region's most popular bands, the Easter Bunny and more at the Harborplace Amphitheatre at 201 South Light Street. Please call (877) BALTIMORE for details.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

12 p.m. Check out the **Diversity Luncheon** sponsored by IAC, OMSA and DSAGA in the Sherwood Room in Levering.

—Compiled by Sarah Rivard and Anusha Gopalratnam

NIGHTLIFE

CLUBS

9:30 Club, 815 V. St, NW, Washington, 202-393-0930
Baja Beach Club, 55 Market Pl., 410-727-0468
Bohagers, 701 S. Eden St., 410-563-7220
Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW, Washington, 202-667-7960
Brass Monkey, 1601 Eastern Ave., 410-522-0784
Buddies Pub and Jazz Club, 313 N. Charles St., 410-332-4200
Cat's Eye Pub, 1730 Thames St., 410-276-9085
Club 2314, 2314 Boston St., 410-276-9556
DeGroen's Grill, 104 Albemarle St., 410-837-5000
Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., 410-558-1889
Hal Daddy's, 4119 E. Lombard St., 410-342-3239
Harry's, 1200 N. Charles Street, 410-685-2828
Hammerjacks, 316 Guilford Ave., 410-234-0044
Horse You Came In On, 1626 Thames St., 410-327-8111
Latin Palace, 509 S. Broadway, 410-522-6700
Lava Lounge, Pier Four, 410-539-7888
Ottobar, 2549 N. Howard St., 410-662-0069
Recher Theatre, 512 York Rd., Towson, 410-337-7178
Redwood Trust, 200 E. Redwood St., 410-669-9500
Sonar, 407 E. Saratoga St., 410-327-8333
The Talking Head, 203 E. Davis St., 410-962-5588
The Vault, 401 W. Baltimore St., 410-244-6000
Waterfront Hotel, 1710 Thames St., 410-327-4886
Wyatt's, 1614 Eastern Av., 410-732-8656

COMEDY

Comedy Factory, 36 Light St., 410-752-4189
The Improv, 6 Market Place at Power Plant Live, 410-727-8500
Tracy's Comedy Shop, 9306 Harford Rd., 410-665-8600

COFFEE

Borders Bookstore and Music, 415 York Road, 410-296-0791
Cafe Tattoo, 4825 Belair Road, 410-325-7427
Donna's, 3101 St. Paul St., 410-889-3410
E Level, Levering Hall, JHU, 410-516-6219
Fell's Point Cafe, 723 S. Broadway, 410-327-8800
Funk's Democratic Coffee Spot, 1818 Eastern Av., 410-276-3865
Images Cafe, 3120 St. Paul St., 410-235-3054
Margarets Cafe, 909 Fell St., 410-276-5606
One World Cafe, 100 W. University Parkway, 410-235-5777
Sweet Retreats, 3215 N. Charles St.
XandO, 3003 N. Charles St., 410-889-7076
Ze Mean Bean Cafe, 1739 Fleet St., 410-675-5999

MOVIE THEATRES

AMC Towson Commons 8, 435 York Road, Ste. 200, 410-825-5233
Charles Theatre, 1711 N. Charles St., 410-727-FILM
Rotunda Cinematheque, 711 W. 40th St., 410-235-4800
Senator Theatre, 5904 York Rd., 410-435-8338

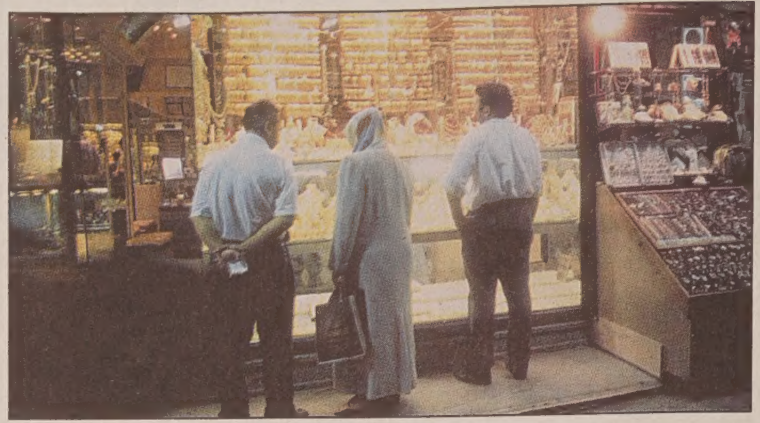
EXPOSURE

By VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN

TURKISH LIFE

PHOTOS BY DENISE TERRY

Research has been an embodiment of The Johns Hopkins University since the University's founding. Johns Hopkins offers several research opportunities and grants to its undergraduates — Wilson Undergraduate Research Grants and Provost Undergraduate Research Award (PURA). The following photos are from a PURA grant titled, "Life: A Photo Essay." The purpose of the photo essay was to represent Turkish life in Berlin and Istanbul—the beautiful, the jubilant, the successes and the sorrows. To learn more about research opportunities, visit <http://www.jhu.edu> or <http://www.jhu.edu/~pura>.



Top left: Two Turkish men and a woman look at jewelry in the Egyptian Market in Istanbul.

Center: A Turkish woman walks toward a weekly Turkish market in Berlin.

Bottom left: Two men repair a fence on Istanbul's Asian side, which overlooks the Bosphorus.

Bottom right center: A man and a boy leave Istanbul's Grand Bazaar in Sultanhamet.

Bottom right: A Turkish woman sleeps on a bench in Kreuzberg, a district of Berlin.